FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

6 MAY 1983

Shultz Tour - Lebanon

Israeli Cabinet Meeting — Previewing the 6 May Israeli Cabinet meeting on the draft agreement submitted by Secretary of State Shultz, Jerusalem radio said Prime Minister Menahem Begin's position will determine the outcome. However, Begin's associates had disclosed that the prime minister was undecided. The radio reported that after hearing the Cabinet decision Shultz will leave for Jordan and then proceed to Syria and Saudi Arabia.

Citing Lebanese press reports on the draft agreement, AFP said the Lebanese agreed that Major Sa'd Haddad will be appointed deputy commander of the Lebanese Army unit in the south and that five supervision teams for the border area will include no more than 50 Israeli soldiers.

THE JERUSALEM POST described the "emerging agreement" as a "poor man's version of the grandiose peace pact held up by Ari'el Sharon." The Israeli negotiators have effectively agreed that Maj Haddad will not have supreme command of his militia and the Lebanese have conceded only a nominal role for Haddad lasting a year, the POST said. Furthermore, IDF soldiers in the joint patrols will not be allowed to give chase to "terrorists," the paper added. Many important details of the security arrangements have not yet been finalized, Jerusalem radio noted.

Syrian Stand, Al-Asad in Jidda — Asserting that the clauses of the Lebanese-Israeli draft agreement indicate that Israel has achieved military and political aims which it was unable to realize through invasion, the Damascus paper ATH-THAWRAH said Lebanon should reject the agreement because it means a "relinquishment of sovereignty, rights, and freedom and turns Lebanon into an Israeli protectorate and espionage base," SANA reported on 6 May. Syria will not allow the invaders to benefit at the expense of Lebanon and the Arab nation, the paper added, and neither will it abandon its stands nor relinquish an inch of Arab territory.

In a similar vein TISHRIN said Secretary Shultz is seeking Lebanese approval for an agreement that "practically consecrates Israeli trusteeship over southern Lebanon and U.S. trusteeship over the rest," according to Damascus radio's press review. Any agreement which the Americans try to impose on Lebanon and which threatens Syrian and Arab security will fare "no better" than the Reagan plan, TISHRIN concluded.

Meanwhile, President Hafiz al-Asad arrived in Jidda for talks with King Fahd, according to Radio Monte Carlo. Beirut radio cited an Israeli report that the purpose of Al-Asad's visit is to persuade Fahd not to support the likely Lebanese-Israeli agreement if this provides gains for Israel in Syria's estimation.

Monitored Saudi and Syrian media have not mentioned Al-Asad's visit to Saudi Arabia.

Lebanese Security Situation — Beirut was calm on 6 May following a day of "mad indiscriminate shelling" of greater Beirut and nearby areas in which up to 10 people were killed and 35 others were wounded, Beirut radio reported. The shelling of the capital and Christian areas to the northeast followed renewed fighting in the Ash-Shuf region, the radio said.

U.S. Marine commander Colonel James Mead's helicopter was hit by bullets during a reconnaissance flight to determine the source of the shellfire, the radio noted. An IDF sergeant was killed and nine soldiers were wounded when IDF vehicles were caught in the crossfire between Druze and Christians, according to ITIM.

In a statement broadcast by Voice of Lebanon radio, the Phalangist Lebanese Forces command accused Syria of involvement in the shelling, asserting that Syria is resorting to military operations to prevent an Israeli-Lebanese agreement and implement its "impossible conditions" on Lebanon. The Lebanese Forces commander subsequently warned the Syrians and Druze that the Phalangists are "losing patience" and have the means to deter "those who undermine Lebanese sovereignty and security," according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

Noting that the shelling stopped after Lebanese Air Force reconnaissance flights, the Voice of Lebanon reported that upon President Amin al-Jumayyil's instructions the Lebanese Army commander telephoned the Syrian Army chief of staff and called for an end to the "unusual actions" perpetrated by artillery in Syrian-controlled areas. The Syrian commander, who expressed ignorance of this situation, is expected to meet his Lebanese counterpart shortly, the radio said. Lebanese security sources cited by the radio said the Syrians had fired GRAD missiles at the Juniyah area.

PLO Affairs

The Palestinian leadership will shortly hold in Damascus its "most important" meeting since the PLO's departure from Beirut, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The radio also cited a report by the London daily ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that, following the recent PLO-Syrian leadership talks, preparations are under way for an Arab minisummit featuring the PLO, Syria, and Jordan.

Israel

Presidential Inauguration — Hayim Herzog was sworn in as Israel's sixth president, Jerusalem radio noted.

West Bank — A secret Jewish organization calling itself "The Defending Fist" has claimed responsibility for recent attacks on Arab cars and a Hebron mosque "in reaction to" Arab attacks on Jewish travelers, according to Jerusalem radio.

Egypt

Relations With Israel — "Authoritative" Egyptian and U.S. sources recently confirmed that Egypt will return its ambassador to Israel if the latter signs an agreement with Lebanon to withdraw the IDF from Lebanon, THE JERUSALEM POST reported.

Relations With USSR — The Cairo magazine AL-MUSAWWAR announced that Egypt and the Soviet Union are expected to exchange ambassadors in August, according to Baghdad radio.

Iran

Further on Tudeh Party, Expulsion of Soviets — Those who have been Tudeh members or sympathizers or have participated in its activities should report to Revolution Guards Corps centers before the announced deadline. If they are not guilty of any further treason or offense, they will be released after filling out the relevant forms, Prosecutor General Hoseyn Musavi-Tabrizi announced in an interview broadcast by Tehran Radio. If they do not report by the deadline as stipulated, however, they will be subject to prosecution and will be treated like those "who are waging war against God and the Islamic Republic," he added.

Meanwhile, a Tehran radio commentary criticized Tudeh Secretary General Nureddin Kianuri for confessing that his party was "misled" into spying for the Soviet Union: Kianuri is thereby trying to exonerate the party's ideology and place the blame on himself and the other party leaders, the radio contended. The radio also noted that 140 Majlis deputies signed an open letter to Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni which described the dissolution of the Tudeh and the confessions of its leaders as a "a great victory equal to that of the occupation of the U.S. den of espionage."

Following the expulsion order for 18 Soviet diplomats, demonstrators protested outside the Soviet Embassy in Tehran, IRNA noted citing KEYHAN. The Soviet Union lodged an "emphatic protest" against Iran's "arbitrary and totally unfounded action," PRAVDA announced in an editorial reported by TASS. The Tudeh has not provided the Soviet Union with any secrets concerning Iran's military and political situation, PRAVDA asserted, and the party leaders' "confessions" were obtained by methods inherited from SAVAK. Claiming that "foreign agents" in Iran fabricated false material to turn Iran against the Soviet Union, PRAVDA said "spy mania" is being whipped up by Iranian circles who fear Soviet-Iranian cooperation and are pushing Iran toward a "pro-imperialist" policy.

Kurdish Operations — Government forces achieved further success in their campaign against "counterrevolutionaries" in Kordestan, capturing two mountain passes and purging several villages, Tehran radio reported.

Afghanistan

Prime Minister Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand denied rumors that a timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet troops was under discussion in the indirect negotiations at Geneva, according to an interview reported by AFP. Keshtmand disclosed that his government plans to make "very important" investments this year to rebuild the economy, AFP said, and he also stated that the DRA will soon release imprisoned French doctor Philippe Augoyard.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Palestinian Forces in Lebanon on Alert 5 May
JN051912 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] A Palestinian source has said that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today ordered that all Palestinian forces positioned in northern and eastern Lebanon be placed on alert in view of the tension prevailing along the Syrian-Israeli contact lines.

Yasir 'Arafat resumed contacts with Syrian and Palestinian officials on the situation in Lebanon.

Red Cross Officials Visit Israeli POW's
JN041520 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 May 83

[Text] Damascus, 4 May (SANA) — The PFLP-GC spokesman has said that yesterday evening (Bouchard Gautier), chairman of the International Red Cross [IRC] Committee in Syria, and Dr (Benoit de Cles) visited Yosef Groff and Nisim Salem, the two Israeli prisoners being held by the front.

The IRC representative was received by Fadl Shururu, secretary of the front's Political Office and its spokesman. The talks dealt with the two prisoners' condition compared to the Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli detention camps and prisons. Afterward, the committee chairman and the doctor met separately with each prisoner. They examined the prisoners' health and living conditions, gave them messages from their parents, and received messages from the prisoners for their parents. The IRC doctor gave the two prisoners several medical tests and was satisfied with the results.

The PFLP-GC spokesman affirmed that this visit answers all the rumors about ill-treatment of the two prisoners. He said that the enemy authorities are treating the Palestinian prisoners, particularly at Ansar detention camp, with the utmost cruelty and barbarism, which is contrary to the Geneva Convention on the treatment of prisoners and also contrary to international and humanitarian laws and norms.

KUNA Reports Khalaf Comments Before Talks in Syria
LD051813 Kuwait KUNA in English 1709 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Tunisia, May 5 (KUNA) — Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf said Thursday, following a meeting here with Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi: "It is natural to maintain good relations with Syria provided the independent Palestinian decision is preserved."

Before leaving for Damascus to join the ranking Palestinian delegation which is conducting negotiations with Syrian officials, Khalaf said: "We leave for Damascus with this independent Palestinian decision...hoping that the Palestinian-Syrian meeting will be the beginning of a new effective Arab solidarity to confront a potential Zionist aggression."

"I'd like to assure everybody that the Palestinian-Jordanian relations are good...and we are determined to maintain them at that level...because the presence of different views could not affect these relations", Khalaf, Name-coded "Abu Iyad", said.

The influential figure in the mainstream Palestinian organization led by the PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat rejected the Jordanian option saying his organization considers the true Jordanian option as "the Arab option."

He affirmed, however, that the Arabs are approaching the leading world powers to enable the Palestinian people to attain self-determination.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Cited on Arab Summit
JN051424 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Citing Arab political sources, the [London-based] newspaper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reports that discussion is under way to convene a mini Arab summit with the participation of Syria, the PLO, and Jordan. The sources added that the preparations for this summit were made following the talks last Tuesday in Damascus between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and in the wake of the PLO's extensive contacts with Amman and Damascus.

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LE MONDE Correspondent Views Syrian-PLO Friction
PM051256 Paris LE MONDE in French 5 May 83 p 4

[Eric Rouleau dispatch: "Yasir 'Arafat Starts Difficult Rapprochement With Syria"]

[Text] Damascus — Syrian-Palestinian relations are passing through a more relaxed phase. For the first time since the end of the Lebanon war Yasir 'Arafat is in Damascus "on an official visit." Better still, the PLO leader, with whom President al-Asad had refused to meet over the past few months, was received at the presidential palace on Tuesday, 3 May, accompanied by the main Palestinian leaders, with a view to a "normalization."

The USSR, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, and various prominent people in the Arab world, including Lebanese Communist Party Secretary General Georges Hawi, who is in Damascus, had stepped up approaches to President al-Asad to urge him to open preliminary talks.

The Syrian Grievances

The bargaining promises to be difficult. The Syrian president does not have any particular liking for the Palestinian leader. Above all, the dispute between Damascus and the PLO is particularly thorny. It relates particularly to a crucial question, namely "the independence to make decisions and act" which the

fedayeen federation claims. "Our Syrian brothers and we have different concepts on this matter," Abu Jihad, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian forces and cofounder of Fatah with Yasir 'Arafat, explained. "We want Damascus to accept that we have the right to pursue our own policy on the international stage, especially the Arab stage, according to the interests of our cause. Unfortunately the Syrian Government is so sensitive that it interprets our exchanges with Jordan or Iraq, for instance, as actions directed against it."

Although the members of the Damascus government observe a degree of restraint, Muhammad Haydar, member of the Ba'th "National" (pan-Arab) high command, has full scope to say out loud what others confide in private. He made two "essential" criticisms of the PLO chairman: "First," he told us, "Yasir 'Arafat imagines that his cause is exclusively Palestinian and that our role, that of the Arabs, is to support him blindly. However, Palestine is the reason for our struggles and we are entitled, especially after the great sacrifices we have made, to discuss, dispute, and even oppose a particular action by the PLO. In addition Yasir 'Arafat places all Arab states on the same plane, mixing together reactionaries and progressives, those who resist Israeli expansionism and the others."

The "others" include Jordan. The Syrians have still not "swallowed" the recent negotiations between the PLO chairman and King Husayn with a view to promoting the implementation of the Reagan plan. "It is sacarcely tolerable," Muhammad Haydar said, "that Yasir 'Arafat should refuse to coordinate his policy with that of Syria while accepting the principle of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation." The reason for this "strange behavior" is clear to the Ba'thist leader: "Yasir 'Arafat," he asserted caustically, "is more interested in founding a state of which he would be president than in pursuing the revolution; meanwhile he tries to establish his own state within the Arab states that grant him hospitality." Mr Haydar had no hesitation in listing the "unscrupulous actions" committed by the fedayeen in Jordan, Lebanon, and finally Syria, which "will not tolerate them" either.

The Syrians fear that the break in the Jordanian-Palestinian preliminary negotiations on 10 April might be final. Thanks to the information leaked by those involved in the Amman negotiations, it is now known that Mr 'Arafat was forced by his own comrades to break them off. Without consulting them the PLO chairman had proposed amendments to the draft agreement which he had submitted to the Jordanian king himself; the latter approved them as they stood and signed the document and sent it back to Mr 'Arafat, who was to countersign it.

King Husayn's Concessions

King Husayn had made two concessions: He abandoned the formation of a strictly Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and agreed to remove all reference to Security Council Resolution 242. The amended document — presented as a "declaration of intent" — stated that an "Arab" delegation, which would include prominent Palestinians independent of the PLO, would open negotiations "on the basis of the Fes Arab summit resolutions and of the various international initiatives to promote a just peace, particularly that of President Reagan." Mr 'Arafat, who was prepared to subscribe to the agreement, met with opposition from two quarters — from the PLO Executive Committee and, more seriously still, from the Central Committee of Fatah, his own organization, which had met in Kuwait in early April in the presence of Democratic Front leaders Mr Hawatimah and Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh. The PLO chairman, disowned by his closest friends, who are nonetheless "moderates" like him, submitted his resignation in a moment of discouragement. "By preventing me from countersigning the agreement I have reached with King Husayn, you strip me of all credibility!" he exclaimed before going back on his decision. The Palestinian leaders then unanimously decided to send the Jordanian sovereign additional amendments, removing in particular all reference to the Reagan plan and reaffirming the PLO's right to represent the Palestinians in any future negotiations.

However, the matter was not closed. Yasir 'Arafat perservered and immediately made new efforts to secure some softening of the Reagan plan. Through Ahmad Abu Sittah, another member ton, and through Algeria, Morocco, and Saudi Arabia, he made it known that an agreement with King Husayn would become possible once again if only the United States recognized the Palestinian people's "right to self-determination." Lakhdar Brahimi, President Bendjedid's envoy, started a tour of Damascus, Amman, and Riyadh last week to gain acceptance of the principle of a referendum in the occupied territories to that end. Under the terms of the Algerian plan, the Palestinians would be asked to choose between three options: union with Israel, union with Jordan, or the establishment of an independent state on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. The proposal produced a moderate response within the PLO, but Mr 'Arafat is apparently counting on pressure from Saudi Arabia and Morocco to Get it adopted

Useful Consultation

This is one of the many criticisms leveled at him by the Syrian leaders, who intend to control what happens. The recriminations which the PLO chairman expresses in private are equally strong. In particular he complains about the fact that the Damascus authorities have been confiscating all the Soviet arms shipments intended for the PLO since the start of the Lebanon war; that fedayeen activities in Lebanon and Syria are subject to drastic restructions; that Damascus is still preventing him from establishing direct contact with the Israeli pacifists, going so far as to indirectly organize the murder of 'Isam as-Sartawi, the man who was responsible for those contacts. Of course, the Syrian leaders deny any direct on indirect responsibility for the murder of the PLO representative to the Socialist International.

It is easy to understand, therefore, why Lebanese Communist Party Secretary General Georges Hawi had to argue for hours in Tunis last weekend to persuade Yasir 'Arafat to visit Damascus, assuring him that if the negotiations fail King Fahd of Saudi Arabia will invite Mr as-Asad, Mr 'Arafat, and King Husayn to Jidda to settle the disagreements among them.

People will probably be surprised to see the Lebanese Communist leader acting in the same way as the Saudi king. But this is not the first time, and probably not the last, that the complexity of the Near East situation has produced surprising rapprochements.

The Lebanese National Movement needs the support of Saudi Arabia and Syria to prevent an "unjust agreement" being concluded between Beirut and Jerusalem. The PLO and Syria, for their part, must reach agreement to prevent such a possibility; both stand to gain from establishing good relations with Jordan so that the outline of a settlement can be brought about with consultation. However, all are pretending to forget the fact that nothing can be done without, on the one hand, U.S. agreement and, on the other hand, the Soviet Union's consent.

In short, these inter-Arab diplomatic maneuvers strike many observers as being doomed from the start. Nonetheless, they are useful to the extend that they maintain the hope, or even the illusion, that words can still offer an alternative to violence.

KUWAIT

Iranian Official Delivers Letter on Oil Slick

LD051058 Kuwait KUNA in English 1011 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Kuwait, 5 May (KUNA) — Kuwait's deputy premier, Information and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah received Thursday a letter from the Iranian Government on the giant oil slick threatening Gulf waters, it was officially reported.

The letter was delivered by the Iranian Foreign Ministry's Director for Asia and Africa Mohammed Huseyn Lavasani.

Lavasani, who arrived here earlier in the day from the United Arab Emirates, is to proceed to Saudi Arabia later in the day to deliver a similar letter.

Assembly Deputy Says Embassies Importing Weapons

GF051150 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 4 May 83 PP 1, 5

[Excerpt] A National Assembly deputy yesterday claimed that some embassies in Kuwait are importing explosives and weapons through diplomatic containers and are endangering the country's security.

Mr. Nayif Abu Ramyah alleged they were coming by land and sea. He called for increased vigilance and asked for searches of all containers coming into the country for embassies.

The finance minister, Mr. 'Abd al-Latif Yusuf al-Hamad said that containers were already "well-searched." But Mr. Ramyah claimed he had a photocopy of an exempt order and that one employee had been punished because he searched such a container.

Defense Minister Interviewed on French Talks

LD051859 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1608 GMT 5 May 83

[Excerpt] Paris, 5 May (KUNA) — The following is the text of the interview that the defense minister gave [to KUNA, AFP, LE FIGARO, and LE MONDE] on his visit to France.

Q: What are Your Excellency's impressions on your visit to France, and what are your feelings following your meetings with French officials headed by Premier Pierre Mauroy?

A: My talks with Premier Pierre Mauroy were of a political and technical nature within a general framework. Undoubtedly, there are numerous matters on which Kuwait and France have identical views, whether in regard to Kuwaiti-French relations or to international issues. We both feel the need to strengthen international organizations and to work through them.

Regarding the Middle East and the Arab causes, France's attitude is very clear and is characterized by a great deal of understanding for the justice of the Palestinian question. On our part, we understand some of the difficulties the French Government faces. But I can say that generally, France is anxious to play its role in regard to these questions.

As to the nature of the talks between me and the French defense minister, Charles Hernu, they were of a military and political nature. Politically, they did not differ from what I have just said and were directly concerned with our work as defense ministers. Militarily, we have longstanding relations with France, and during our talks, we sought to ensure the continuation of these relations. We have French weapons, and they are good, and the Kuwaiti army officers are happy with the quality and effectiveness of these French weapons.

During this visit I tried to acquaint myself with the developments that have taken place in regard to the French weapons we use on both land and in the air as well as in telecommunications. We previously signed a deal for the purchase of a number of planes. This took place before my visit to Paris. We are now seeking to buy additional French weapons of various types, including offensive aircraft, helicopters, and artillery. Artillery weapons aroused the interest of our officers during the maneuvers we witnessed yesterday.

Shaykh Salim said that the members of the military delegation accompanying him on his visit to France will remain there to "complete technical consultations in their capacity as arms experts."

Speaking about his visit, Salim said: I cherish the visit because of the warm welcome I was given by French officials which reflects the good relations between Kuwait and France. We are confident that these relations will continue to develop in all fields.

We spoke with French Premier Mauroy about the forthcoming meeting scheduled to take place between Kuwaiti Finance Minister 'Abd al-Latif al-Hamad, in his capacity as head of the Kuwaiti side to the joint French-Kuwaiti Committee, and French Finance Minister Jacques Delores, who is the head of the French side, in Kuwait shortly to discuss the development of relations between the two countries.

Q: You have spoken of the need to bolster international organizations. You must have meant by this the need to bolster the efforts being exerted to end the Iraq-Iran war. How do you evaluate the development of the conflict between the two countries?

A: Undoubtedly, the war between Iraq and Iran directly concerns Kuwait as well as the world. Kuwait has been and still is anxious to find a solution to the conflict between the two countries, the first of which, Iraq, has ties of fraternity and common destiny with us and the second, Iran, has ties of Islamic faith and neighborliness with us. We have done all we can through the Islamic organizations and the Nonaligned Movement to find a solution to the conflict. I have noted French understanding of the need for a solution that would put an end to the fighting. France can support this principle at the United Nations, for example.

Q: Have the messages that the amir of Kuwait recently sent to the permanent members of the UN Security Council anything to do with the need to work through the international organizations, and have you received any replies to these messages?

A: The French premier has informed me that the French reply is ready and will be conveyed to the amir of Kuwait by the French ambassador on his return to Kuwait shortly. The concern of Kuwait and the amir with this matter is clearly evident from the messages addressed to the member countries of the UN Security Council.

Q: Do you hold any hopes for a solution of the Iraq-Iran conflict in the near future, despite the many obstacles that stand in the way of such a solution?

A: Kuwait believes completely in the resolution of problems between countries through dialogue and by peaceful means. Hence, we will do all we can to find an end to the conflict between Iraq and Iran. All solutions to conflicts have obstacles in their way, but by working calmly, we can reach a satisfactory solution acceptable to both sides.

The war between Iraq and Iran is completely different from the problem of the Middle East. I hope my talk about Kuwait's belief in the policy of dialogue will not be interpreted as belief in the principle of dialogue for solving the Middle East question, which is the Palestinian question. For in this latter case, the question is one of usurped rights, while in the case of the Iraq-Iran war, it is one of a conflict over borders.

Q: Signs of a possible agreement for resolving the question of the oil slick in the Gulf seem to be emerging on the horizon.

A: Regarding the oil slick, the problem is far greater and more dangerous than some imagine it to be. This is because of the effect it has on the marine wealth in the Gulf and on the Gulf's citizens, particularly since the majority of the Gulf countries rely for their water on the desalinization of Gulf water. At the beginning, Kuwait called for a meeting of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Maritime Environment [ROPME] of which Iran and Iraq are members. The ROPME committee consists of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Iran, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman and is headed by the Kuwaiti health minister. From the beginning, difficulties began to emerge. But through the continuation of the dialogue, we hope to reach a solution, particularly now that the fires have been put out at the two wells from which oil was spilling. This will mean the continued flow of Gulf oil and saving about 7,000 barrels a day in addition to checking the pollution. It will act as an incentive in helping the joint committee reach a satisfactory solution putting an end to pollution.

Asked why the majority of Arab tourists in general and Gulf tourists in particular come to Paris now instead of England, as was the case in the past, Shaykh Salim said: "I believe the reason lies in the active work of the French Embassy in Kuwait and the Kuwaiti Embassy in Paris." Shaykh Salim praised the efforts exerted by the two embassies in this regard, saying that they have contributed greatly to the development of bilateral relations and the encouragement of the citizens to spend their holidays in France.

He also spoke of common economic interests, saying that they too have strengthened French-Arab relations. He added that the "psychological factor behind the French policy toward the Arab countries has played a major role in influencing Arab citizens, who have felt France's understanding of their causes and the French people's sympathy for these causes."

OMAN

Ministry Official on Gulf Military Cooperation

GF051616 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sayf ibn Hamad al-Batashi announced that the Gulf states are studying the formation of a joint military unit, within the framework of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries, with the task of protecting the region. In a statement published by the Cairo newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH yesterday, he said that the Gulf's security will continue to be in danger so long as the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan continues and so long as the Russian military presence in Ethiopia continues because both regions are close to the Gulf.

He added that the Soviets also have strategic goals in the region. He said that the Sultanate of Oman will not change its stand or policy toward the Soviet Union and explained that the Iraq-Iran war and the Arab-Israeli conflict are elements of danger regarding Gulf security.

He added that the GCC countries are about to reach agreements on the problems of the borders between them and that only the final touches remain.

SAUDI ARABIA

President Hafiz al-Asad Arrives in Jidda 5 May

JN051215 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1210 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad arrived in Jidda today to meet with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. Preparations for this visit were made during the past 24 hours.

Thus far we have not received any reports on the subject of talks.

Riyadh Comments on Secretary Shultz's Tour

LD051519 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 May 83

["News Analysis"]

[Text] It seems U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is about to achieve a positive conclusion to his shuttle tour between Lebanon and occupied Palestine. Before leaving Beirut for Jerusalem with Lebanon's final answer to the Israelis on the withdrawal of non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon, he declared that there is a strong possibility of agreement between the Lebanese and the Israeli sides before next Monday. What strengthens this possibility is a report by the enemy radio that the Israeli and the Lebanese negotiating teams met last night to put the final touches to a draft agreement. Add to this the call by enemy Prime

Minister Menahem Begin to his Cabinet to meet today because there were issues that Begin described as important on which decisions must be made.

Despite the strong silence imposed by the Lebanese, American, and Israeli negotiators on the issues under discussion, news agencies report that the draft agreement includes, among other things, the state of war between Israel and Lebanon, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon within 8 weeks, and the holding of talks between the two sides on the normalization of relations 6 months after the withdrawal. Anyway, Lebanese sources believe that the agreement, about whose nearness there has been much talk lately, will not embody Lebanon's hopes and ambitions unless it is accompanied by practical steps by Lebanese invaders from the territories they occupy. They also believe this agreement, and any similar one, will remain worthless if it ignores those hopes and ambitions, especially now that Lebanon has clearly defined its final attitude to the issues on the agenda of its talks with the Israelis.

Arab sources in Beirut expect that Shultz' failure to reach an agreement that guarantees the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon will force the Lebanese Government to adopt a new stand toward the tripartite talks. These sources base their expectations on the criticism directed by Lebanese quarters at the style in which the talks are conducted and at the statements by two former presidents: Sulayman Franjiyah and Camille Sham'un. The former said that America's enthusiasm for the return to normality in the affairs of Lebanon has been turning lukewarm at a time when the talks are being held in the shadow of the continued Israeli threat. He expressed hope that the Lebanese Government would decide to halt the talks in the event of the failure of the U.S. secretary of state's current tour. The latter called for ending the talks and heading for the United Nations.

A similar attitude is held by former Lebanese Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam with regard to the talks. He does not differ from the attitudes of Franjiyah and Sham'un, but in addition, he believes that the failure of the Shultz mission will be strong proof that the U.S. Administration is totally incapable of fulfilling its pledge to the Lebanese Government to bring about the withdrawal of all Israeli forces from Lebanon.

'UKAZ Comments on Reagan's Remarks on PLO

GF060516 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 6 May 83

[From the press review]

[Text] On U.S. President Ronald Reagan's skepticism over the PLO's legitimate representation of the Palestinian people, the newspaper 'UKAZ commented editorially, saying: The U.S. Administration was previously made to understand by the Arab countries directly concerned with the treatment of the Palestinian issue and the Middle East issue as a whole, that the attempts by the U.S. President to undermine the legitimacy of the Palestinian organization by saying that it was not elected by the Palestinian people are in defiance to Palestinian will and to Arab will which approved, during the Rabat 1974 summit conference, a resolution stating that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative for the Palestinian people.

This decision still stands, and the Arab nation and the Palestinian people are committed to it. Therefore, it would be beneficial to Reagan not to criticize the PLO's legitimacy. It would be beneficial to the U.S. Administration to recognize the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

UAE

President Leaves Abu Dhabi for Bahrain

GF060830 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0805 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 May (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, left Abu Dhabi for Manama this morning on a short visit to Bahrain during which he will meet with His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain.

Shaykh Zayid is accompanied by a delegation that comprises Rashid ibn Ahmad al-Mu'alla, member of the Supreme Council and ruler of Umm al-Qaywayn; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid, minister of defense; Ahmad Khalifah as-Suwaydi, the president's representative; and Major General Hammudah ibn 'Ali, minister of state for internal affairs.

UAE, UK Ministers Meet; UK Minister Departs

GF051050 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Dr Man'i Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and natural resources, held a meeting this morning with Nigel Lawson, British secretary of state for energy, to discuss means of improving cooperation between the two countries in the energy field. During the meeting, they also discussed the oil market situation in general and means of enhancing its stability.

After the meeting, Dr al-'Utaybah said he discussed with his British counterpart cooperation between the two countries in the field of energy. Dr 'Utaybah also presented an explanation to him on the latest developments in the oil market and the improvement that has occurred in it after the emergency OPEC ministerial council meeting in London and all the countries' commitment to the resolutions of this meeting on prices and official production shares.

In a statement to WAM, the minister of petroleum and natural resources said: It is now clear that improvement has begun to be felt in the market. He noted that Nigel Lawson offered his country's readiness to cooperate with the UAE and other Gulf countries in fighting the oil slick, which is floating in Gulf waters, and to provide British expertise in this field.

Dr al-'Utaybah expressed his satisfaction over Britain's commitment to help in stabilizing the oil market, particularly regarding its decision not to lower its oil prices below those of OPEC.

Nigel Lawson left for home this afternoon after a short visit to the UAE within a tour that included Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Report Says Emirate Could Become Oil Exporter
GF061200 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 6 May 83 p 1

[By staff reporter]

[Excerpt] The emirate of Ras al-Khaimah [RAK] is to spend an estimated 120 million dollars on the development of a potential oil field which has so far provided three wells producing commercial quantities of crude oil and natural gas.

According to a report prepared by the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, the first shipment of RAK oil is likely to be made next January.

Shaykh Khalid ibn Saqr al-Qasimi, crown prince and deputy ruler of Ras al-Khaimah, is reported to have said that another 300 million dollars would be spent on the establishment of a methanol plant at Halila in Ras al-Khaimah.

The oil exports from RAK would be made only after the daily production from the wells reaches a target of 20,000 barrels per day. If the shipment is made according to schedule RAK would become the fourth emirate in the UAE to export oil. The other three are Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Ash-Shariqah.

YAR

Prime Minister al-Iryani Attacks Reagan Plan
GF051332 Doha QNA in Arabic 0910 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Kuwait, 5 May (QNA) — Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, has described the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] as a pioneer Arab experience that can be an example for other societies in the Arab Levant and Maghreb. He said his country blesses and supports this step.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM today, Dr al-Iryani affirmed that U.S. President Ronald Reagan's plan is immature because it does not recognize the PLO as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He expressed the belief that the way to implement the Fes summit resolutions is to act politically with all parties that have not yet taken a position. He said it is advisable that the Arab seven-member committee continue its efforts to hold contacts with all powers that influence the Arab-Israeli conflict.

About the reconstruction of cities destroyed by the earthquake, the prime minister said the reconstruction process will cost 3 billion Yemeni riyals. He noted that a down payment of 500 million riyals has been allocated for that purpose. He also said the preliminary procedures for establishing a united state between both Yemens have been completed, and that the unified constitution will undergo a public referendum in both Yemens. The prime minister considers this an important step on the way to uniting both Yemens.

Cabinet Discusses Shultz's Visit, Other Issues

NC051028 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0825 GMT 5 May 83

[Excerpts] Cairo, 5 May (MENA) — In a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din that continued until late last night, the Cabinet stressed that Egypt's stand on the Middle East problem calls for finding a quick solution to the problem, beginning with the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon. The Cabinet pointed out that the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon will move the situation into a new stage on the road to solving the question and to enabling the U.S. initiative to assume its role so that Jordan and the PLO may reach an agreement [as received].

Following the meeting that lasted well over 3 and 1/2 hours, Minister of State for Information Safwat ash-Sharif said that at the beginning of the meeting the Cabinet reviewed the results of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' visit to Cairo and his meeting with President Husni Mubarak, which was attended by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali. He said that the Cabinet also reviewed the U.S. secretary of state's moves in the area and the possible results of these moves. Ash-Sharif pointed to President Mubarak's emphasis on the PLO'S role in any talks aimed at a comprehensive and just peace in the Middle East. Ash-Sharif said that the Cabinet also reviewed the results of Kamal Hasan 'Ali's recent visit to Romania, during which agreement was reached to form a joint Egyptian-Romanian committee. Both sides agreed that this committee will meet in Cairo from 10 to 12 May.

Ash-Sharif said that after reviewing President Mubarak's speech, the Cabinet decided that the ministerial committees should study it so that it will be a guide for action for all ministries and committees, because the speech is historic and charts a course of action that demonstrates President Mubarak's thinking on many issues that concern the masses. In his speech, Mubarak crystallized and decisively settled many issues of the people on the political, economic and social levels.

Regarding the domestic situation, Ash-Sharif said the Cabinet emphasized the importance of continuing an objective dialogue with the radical thinking in order to safeguard the youth, stressing in this respect the important role of the Al-Azhar mosque and the Ministries of Awqaf and Information toward this goal.

'Ali, Ghali, Al-Baz Review Mideast Developments

NC051434 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today held a meeting with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Usamah al-Baz.

During the meeting they reviewed developments in the situation in the Middle East area in light of the talks being held by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz for realizing the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

Mr 'Ali stated that Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Mr Veliotes is expected to arrive in Cairo within the next 2 days to brief Egypt on the results of the U.S. talks.

'Ali added that Egypt will make a general assessment of the situation in light of the results of the talks.

The foreign minister said that his meeting yesterday with PLO Executive Committee member Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani took place for the purpose of exchanging viewpoints on the developments of the situation, the efforts being exerted as well as the responsibility of all parties for pushing forward the peace efforts.

Further On Meeting

NC051530 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1453 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Cairo, 5 May (MENA) — MENA has learned that PLO executive committee member Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani informed Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali during their meeting yesterday of the results of the contacts that were recently conducted by the PLO with a number of Arab leaders and with the other leaders of the countries concerned with the Middle East crisis and the Palestinian issue.

It has also been learned that Mr 'Ali informed ad-Dajani of the Egyptian diplomatic drive for both the Palestinian and the Lebanese issues. He also informed him of the Egyptian viewpoint regarding the move which should be taken by all parties in order to reach a just and comprehensive settlement in the area.

It is known that Dr ad-Dajani had left Cairo following this meeting for Damascus to attend the meeting to be held by the PLO leaders there.

'Ali Informed of Results of Shultz' Efforts

NC051515 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Cairo, 5 May (MENA) — MENA has learned that deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today received from the Lebanese Government the results of the intensive contacts and discussions held so far by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz during his shuttle tours between Israel and Lebanon concerning the Lebanese question, agreement on the Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, and the progress these discussions achieved so far.

MENA further learned that the Lebanese Government sent these results through the mission taking care of Egyptian interests in Lebanon and that a Lebanese envoy is expected to visit Cairo shortly to hold consultations on the Lebanese question and on cooperation between Egypt and Lebanon.

Egypt, it is known, is continuing its efforts and contacts to achieve a total Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, restore Lebanese sovereignty over every inch of Lebanon and maintain its national unity and help it rebuild itself.

Muhyi ad-Din on Development Plan Targets

NC051227 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din today said that the government is committed to implementing the economic and social development plan according to the timetable of each project regarding financing, implementation, operation, and production. He said that the implementation of the plan from 1 June 1982 to the end of March 1983 indicates that high growth rates have been achieved, particularly in the main sectors. He said that the agriculture sector production totaled approximately 4 billion pounds, that is 71 percent; the industry sector totaled 7.487 billion pound, that is, 72 percent, and petrol production totaled 2 billion pounds. Oil export for the first 9 months of the development plan for this year totaled 1.611 billion pounds. He concluded by saying that these rates indicate that the implementation of the development plan for this year is proceeding according to the drawn up plan and that pursuance of every project will continue to ensure serious implementation.

Muhyi ad-Din Meets With French Assembly Member

NC051318 Cairo MENA in English 1312 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Cairo, May 5 (MENA) — Premier Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din conferred today with visiting member of the French National Assembly Jean de Lipkowski on the latest Middle East developments and Egypt's attitude towards reaching a just and comprehensive solution in the area.

Means of consolidating Franco-Egyptian cooperation were also discussed. The meeting was attended by Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah chairman of the People's Assembly's Foreign Relations Committee.

Muhyi ad-Din on Middle East, Domestic Issues

NC060805 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din has stated that the current negotiations between Lebanon and Israel with U.S. participation give hope for solving the Lebanese problem. He reaffirmed that the Palestinian question is the crux of the Middle East conflict. He said Egypt will continue its efforts toward the determination of the Palestinian people's fate. This came during the political and popular conference organized by the National Democratic Party secretariat in the Al-Jizah Governorate yesterday evening on the first anniversary of Sinai's return to Egyptian sovereignty. Attending the celebrations were Consultative Council Speaker Dr Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim, Information Minister Safwat ash-Sharif, Northern Sinai Governor Major General Munir Shash, Al-Jizah Governor Dr 'Abd al-Hamid Hasan and a group of the governorate's leaders.

Dr Muhyi ad-Din said in its domestic policy, the government is proceeding according to a specific 5-year development plan aimed at increasing income by 8.5 percent annually. The plan's priority projects are sewage, drinking water, and housing.

Ghali To Visit Netherlands, Switzerland

NC051621 Cairo MENA in English 1600 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Cairo, May 5 (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, will leave tomorrow for The Hague to take part in the conference of the International Committee on International Law.

During his three-day visit, Dr Ghali will also have talks with the Dutch Government on the Middle East issue and the Lebanon problem.

He will visit Switzerland at the end of his stay in The Hague, to return to Cairo next Thursday or Friday.

Nile Valley Parliament To Meet in Khartoum 24 May

NC051625 Cairo MENA in English 1500 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Cairo, May 5 (MENA) — The Nile Valley Parliament to represent Egypt and the Sudan will hold its first meeting in Khartoum on May 24 under Presidents Ja'far Numayri and Husni Mubarak.

The main function of the meeting will be to take practical steps to implement the Egyptian-Sudanese integration charter.

Dr. 'Abd-Allah Ahmad 'Abd-Allah, governor of Sudan's northern region and member of the Supreme Integration Council, told a press conference here today that the parliament would consider projects to promote food security, to establish a shipping line between Suez and Port Sudan, to facilitate the movement of persons and goods between the two countries to eliminate customs duties between them, etc.

Minister Denies Report of As-Sadat Son's Arrest

NC051505 Cairo MENA in English 1319 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Cairo, May 5 (MENA) — Interior Minister Hasan Abu Basha denied before the People's Assembly today an opposition newspaper claim that a son of the late President Anwar as-Sadat had been arrested at Cairo International Airport trying to smuggle a bag of jewels.

The minister said that the report, printed by "AL-AHRAR" newspaper, organ of the Socialist Liberal Party, on April 18, was totally untrue. He said there was no document of any such arrest.

The Minister of Finance, Dr Salah Hamid, also denied that there was any document on such a case at the customs office of Cairo airport.

Several deputies condemned the publication of the claim as a deliberate attempt to defame the late president.

The assembly resolved that the publication of the claim be referred to the public prosecutor for investigation.

Baghdad: USSR Ambassador Exchange in August
JN051717 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] The Cairo magazine AL-MUSAWWAR today reports that the month of August has been set as the date expected for the exchange of ambassadors between Egypt and the USSR within the context of furthering their diplomatic relations.

Communique 1,082 on 4-5 May War Operations

JN051555 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1540 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Baghdad, 5 May (INA) — Iraqi forces killed four Iranian soldiers east of Basra and destroyed an ammunition dump in the central operational sector. An Iraqi communique issued here this evening summarizing the military operations over the past 24 hours noted that the Iraqi forces also destroyed an Iranian observation post in the Maysan operational sector. The communique said that the Iranian forces today bombarded Zurbatiyah, damaging civilian establishments. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,082 issued by the Armed Forces General Command: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The valiant sons of Tigris and Euphrates continued their bold activities against the suspect enemy forces, the results of which for last night and today are as follows:

1. One of our forward units attacked a group of enemy personnel east of Basra, killing four and destroying an ammunition dump.

2. One hardware stockpile was destroyed in the central operational sector.

3. One observation post was destroyed in the Maysan operational sector.

4. The despicable Khomeyniite regime today shelled Zurbatiyah, causing damage to some civilian establishments.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 5 May 1983

LE MONDE: Tariq 'Aziz To Visit Paris 9 May

PM060929 Paris LE Monde in French 6 May 83 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Tariq 'Aziz Expected in Paris"]

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and Ba'th Party ideologue, will make a visit to Paris beginning Monday, 9 May. During his visit, he will have talks with several ministers, including Defense Minister Charles Hernu. Iraq apparently wishes to buy helicopters and will ask once again whether France is prepared to supply five Super-Etendard aircraft and the Exocet missiles with which they are equipped. The French are apparently cautious fearing that the possible use of these weapons against oil tankers picking up supplies from Iran might lead to disastrous oil spillages in the Gulf.

Another subject will very probably be featured on the agenda: the repayment of Iraq's debts at a time when Baghdad and Paris are passing through a difficult phase and when the Gulf states, whose revenue has dropped, are being less generous toward President Saddam Husayn. This is true of Kuwait, among others, whose Defense Minister Shaykh Salim Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah is presently visiting Paris, and of Abu Dhabi, which is to purchase around 40 Mirage-2000 aircraft.

Daily Criticizes Lebanese Draft Agreement
JN061017 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 6 May 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "A Reading of the Lebanese- Israeli Agreement," SAWT ASH-SHA'B says: All indications and statements are that the Lebanese-Israeli agreement has reached its final stage, unless the Israeli Government succeeds in destroying it by fabricating last minute obstacles — a known method in the art of negotiations which Israel is good at utilizing.

The published clauses of the agreement clearly indicate the inevitability of developing the agreement within a short time into a peace agreement between Lebanon and Israel based on ending the state of war, normalizing future relations, and participating in the security measures in the South.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B adds: Although the agreement outwardly fulfills the rights of Lebanese sovereignty, it gives Israel several advantages as a reward for its aggression and invasion of the Lebanese territories. Through the memorandum of understanding with the United States, Israel is attempting to firmly establish the U.S. position and make it abide by political principles that will prevent U.S. diplomacy from moving to the stage of discussing the Palestinian cause — a cause that is the hotbed and crux of the conflict in the Middle East. Israel does not want the Lebanese-Israeli agreement to open the door for a dialogue with other concerned parties in Lebanon, such as the PLO and Syria. It wants to utilize the U.S. Administration's sensitivity to the Soviet presence in Syria to block the road to any attempt to open a dialogue between Washington and these parties.

The other thing worthy of Arab and Lebanese consideration is what has been said about giving Israel the right to interfere in Lebanon in case either side is exposed to danger.

This implies a permanent threat to Lebanon and the region and gives Israel the right to invade Lebanon whenever it likes or whenever it may fabricate a crisis in the region. The conflict in the region is not confined to Lebanon, and Lebanon will remain in the center of the conflict even after signing the agreement. We are afraid that the agreement may become an indirect authorization to attack Lebanon again under the pretext of a threat to security or of an external threat. In addition to this fact, this clause conflicts with the Collective Arab Defense Pact and the Arab League Charter by which Lebanon abides.

Insistence on beginning the normalization negotiations between Lebanon and Israel after 6 months will pose economic, security, and political dangers, not only to Lebanon, but also to the Arab region. This is an Arab and Lebanese responsibility and its implementation will turn the expected Lebanese-Israeli agreement into a bilateral treaty.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B concludes: We should not belittle the meaning of a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon, an elimination of the dangers of division, and a return of Lebanon as a free master of its own territory at a time when the Arabs have done very little to support Lebanon in overcoming its ordeal. Through their contradictory policies in Lebanon, and through their exploitation of the Lebanese situation, the Arabs have contributed to complicating Lebanon's problem and rendering it easy prey for the Israeli occupation.

Dailies Comment on Results of Lebanese Talks
JN051128 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 5 May 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Who Will Pay the Price?" SAWT ASH-SHA'B says: The arrival of the final stages of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' mission and the possibility of reaching agreement on the withdrawal of the Israeli and other foreign forces from Lebanon, as indicated by reports, means that the results of the Lebanese equation are beginning to appear. This equation is accompanied by Israel's blackmail aimed at exacting a price without offering anything.

While reports are carrying some details of the agreement, which include solving Major Haddad's problems by granting him a major but not leading position, ending the state of war, holding talks on normalization of relations 6 months after signing the agreement, and all the other details, these same reports mention a political deal Israel is trying to sign with the United States under the name of a memorandum of understanding, which may chain the United States and freeze its search for a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East conflict.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B adds: Israel demands a revival of its strategic cooperation with the United States, release of the F-16 shipment, which was frozen by President Reagan, acquisition of materials to manufacture the Israeli Lavi aircraft, and an increase in U.S. economic and military aid. More than that, any U.S. move in the Middle East should be approved by Israel. In other words, it wants to put an end to the U.S. ability to move toward resolving the Palestine issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

It seems that Israel does not want to withdraw from Lebanon without a price, but what is the price and who will pay it? Will the Lebanese-Israeli agreement be the beginning of a comprehensive settlement in the region or will it be an obstacle to a comprehensive peace?

In 1975, the United States signed a memorandum of understanding with Israel as a price for the disengagement of forces in Sinai under the supervision of Henry Kissinger. One of the articles of this memorandum stipulated the United States' commitment not to recognize or negotiate with the PLO. The Palestinian cause is still suffering from this U.S. commitment. In the Lebanese agreement, Israel wants to chain and paralyze U.S. hands in moving in accordance with the Reagan plan or any other plan to solve the Palestine problem. Consequently, the Middle East arena will be under Israel's hegemony and expansionist plans to impose a fait accompli on the West Bank and Gaza forever.

Hence, the United States will pay the price to Israel in the form of a political commitment and economic and military aid. Leba-

non will pay another price after having paid a heavy price in destruction and political turbulence. However, the parties that will pay the heaviest price are the Palestinian people and those in the occupied territory, because Israel, in fact, is waging a battle to annex the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the arena of the Lebanese crisis.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B concludes: If Israel achieves its objectives, the effects of any agreement to end the Lebanese problem will first and foremost be at the expense of the Palestinian problem and the issue of peace in the Middle East. These effects will also pose dangers that may be more painful than the results of the accords on the disengagement of forces and on Camp David. If all these reports are true, will Lebanon agree to sign such an agreement? Will the Arabsagain remain silent over the Israeli blackmail of the United States?

Under the headline "Results, Not Optimism, Count," AR-RA'Y says: Shultz returned to occupied Jerusalem yesterday carrying the final draft of an agreement that will organize the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Lebanon. Shultz indicated that endorsement of this agreement depends on the Israeli officials' approval. Meanwhile, a contradictory atmosphere emerged concerning the future of the draft agreement. While sources close to the U.S. secretary of state expressed optimism over the possibility of achieving success before Shultz leaves for Paris on Monday, it was noted that two former Lebanese presidents, Camille Sham'un and Sulayman Franjiyah, have expressed a different opinion, coupled with a call for resorting to the United Nations if Shultz' mission fails.

AR-RA'Y adds: Thus, it is difficult to predict the future of the U.S. secretary of state's draft agreement for two reasons: First, the Lebanese side has not yet frankly declared its approval; second, the results of the talks Shultz is holding with the Israeli side have not yet appeared. This means that proving U.S. credibility is still in the balance, that the ball is still in the U.S. court, and that the optimism expressed by those close to Shultz means nothing as long as an agreement has not been announced or signed.

AR-RA'Y concludes: This caution does not mean that we undervalue the efforts being exerted by the U.S. secretary; it frankly means that expressing optimism and hinting at an imminent agreement will not succeed in influencing Arab feelings, which formerly could be affected by winks and hints. These feelings are now fortified against all sorts of statements, and are linked to results and action. The Arabs will not judge U.S. credibility by the size of Shultz' efforts or his closeness to success at one stage, but in light of the final results, which should, at the least, be finally represented by the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon and the freezing of settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory.

AD-DUSTUR: Bethlehem Mayor Concludes Visit

JN051020 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 May 83 p 32

[Text] Amman, AD-DUSTUR — Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj left Amman for the West Bank after a 3-day visit to Amman, during which he met with Occupied Territories Minister Hasan Ibrahim and Under Secretary Shawkat Mahmud . He discussed with them the situation in the West Bank, the problems facing the municipal councils there, and the financial straits of the Bethlehem municipal council.

Last month, Frayj visited Sweden and Switzerland and briefed the two countries' officials on the deteriorating situation in the occupied Arab territories. He also explained to them the Palestinian people's aspirations for the implementation of the UN resolutions and the recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Delegation Returns From IPU Conference

JN041033 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0910 GMT 4 May 83

[Text] Amman, 4 May (PETRA) — The Jordanian parliamentary delegation to the IPU conference returned to Amman last night. The conference concluded its meetings in Helsinki on 29 April.

Ahmad at-Tarawinha, Senate president and head of the delegation, stated that the Arab group presented a draft resolution to the IPU Council which calls for denunciation of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and for immediate Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. The draft resolution also holds Israel responsible for the Sabra and Shatila massacres, demands Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories that have been occupied since the 1967 war, removal of settlements, and a halt to the inhuman, repressive acts practiced by the Israeli authorities in the occupied territories.

The Arab draft resolution also calls for recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their state on their Palestinian territory under the PLO, in accordance with international law and the resolutions of the UN and the IPU. The draft resolution also considers the Fes summit resolutions a basic step toward reaching a just solution to the Middle East problem and calls on nations not to cooperate with Israel as long as it insists on not implementing the resolutions of international organizations.

Al-Jumayyil Address to Graduating Officers 6 May
NC061013 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0747 GMT 6 May 83

[Speech by Lebanese President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil at a graduation ceremony for new Lebanese Army officers at the Al-Fayyadiyah Barracks in Beirut — live]

[Excerpt] Graduating officers: The baptism in blood and fire which the homeland has experienced for 8 years has been tantamount to a purifier of souls, to an awakening from dreams, and to an opening of eyes, prompting all the people to return to themselves and to cling to their rights, sovereignty, and dignity. They are rallying around you and looking to you as the supporter and hoped-for savior in the liberation march. You are supported in the interim by multinational forces and the UN emergency force. It is our duty to address to them on this occasion a greeting of appreciation and admiration. [applause]

Self-reliance is our most prominent goal, because no substitute will suffice in the domain of national rights. Let the salvation march, therefore, be an honor for the future generation. Let military service be the honor of every home through the national service law, which was implemented on the date announced 6 months ago. The enthusiasm and rush by the first group of young volunteers reinforces our faith in the ability of this homeland to triumph, irrespective of plots and dangers. We shall continue without letup in mobilizing our resources and in developing our military in terms of equipment and numbers. The nucleus of the Army which we have inherited is regarded as a people in an army, and the Army itself is regarded as being for the people.

While the military has a prominent role to play in the salvation venture, the salvation venture involves all of our resources, fields, and sectors — security, economic, social, educational, and reformational. We are going ahead with the venture workshop on every level and in every area — in the capital, the mountain, the south, Al-Biqa', and the north. Every area is close to our hearts, regardless of the distance and the forces in control. The land is ours, and not one iota of soil will be taken by foreigners by force. [applause] The people are ours. They live on their land. No one can share this with them unjustly. [applause]

Military men, I know and you know that the responsibility is big, but it is not impossible. There are many difficulties, but overcoming them is not difficult. There are occupations, negotiations, and insistence on withdrawal. However, hope is still pinned on you, whether there be success or failure, because you are the strongest insurance for stability and survival. [applause]

In any case, we are undertaking the negotiations on the basis of an independent Lebanese decision, stemming from an independent, sovereign state which makes its decisions by itself and for itself, and we will not permit any guardianship over us nor guardians. [applause] Our guardian is our conscience and the will of the people in accordance with the principles of free choice which we have announced. Lebanon will not abandon in the negotiations or outside them the accepted principles it believes in. These principles express Lebanon's convictions, apart from any other consideration, about maintaining its sovereignty and its free affiliation with the Arab world.

We shall not delay the conclusion of any agreement that will achieve independence and free the land without giving up one iota of sovereignty and dignity. We, on the other hand, reject any conditional agreement that is not based on the principles we believe in and on the spirit of the oath we have taken.

Because the matter pertains to the liberation of the land, the future of the homeland and the fate of the people, we shall not pay attention to any fabricated negative events or obstacles placed in the way of the homeland. Nevertheless, we are not alone in the negotiations. The United States is thankfully participating and is helping us through a decision of its friendly President Ronald Reagan. [applause]

We, as you, have been surprised by the resumption of shelling of neighborhoods and innocent people, without reason or justification, aimed at restoring the atmosphere of terror and disturbance and disregarding the state's authority and the people's lives. However, we shall draw strength from what is right and draw right from strength to check any attacks on public peace and the state's authority and to prevent repetition of such actions. [applause]

Furthermore, there are many attempts to revive security disturbances and fan the fire of factional conflicts and contradictions, but the people will foil them through their vigilance. There is a minority of people who still act rashly, taking advantage of the absense of government authority in some areas, to carry out actions threatening the state's security, such as attacks and restricting liberties, which threaten the citizen's life.

However, every matter has a final account and every perpetrator will receive his punishment. If the arm of the authority cannot reach him today [applause] it will reach him any other day when you will not need anyone's permission to arrest the perpetrators and to defend the sanctity of law and to protect the life of the peaceful citizens. Under this law, there is no equality between an honorable man and a traitor, an honest man and an agent, a man who speaks the truth and a man who tells lies, a criminal and an innocent person, or a patriot and an agent. [applause]

Military men, some have placed bets on the government's collapse, but they fell in their evil. They made bets on the Army's collapse, but they fell in the face of its surging march. They made bets on the Lebanese homeland's collapse, but Lebanon survived victorious over the conspiracy of forces and the fire of wars and over those who bear the responsibility of the war in Lebanon and the responsibility of taking war from it to other places, developing the confrontation between armies into infiltration using terrorism, explosions, and sabotage.

O men, I promise you that Lebanon will not remain a field for terrorism and blackmail. [applause] Lebanon will not be an open field for occupation and regional and international conflicts. Lebanon will not be a weak homeland to be used free of charge to serve the aims of others. The Lebanese people will never be the victim of material and ideological conflicts. The Lebanese state will not be free for any state near or far. I am armed by the will of the one and united people. [applause] I shall wage with you the salvation venture and the liberation venture from greater Beirut to greater Lebanon. Long live Lebanon. [applause]

Details Of Schultz' Plan Reported By Press
NC051612 Paris AFP in English 1556 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Beirut, May 5 (AFP) — Israeli troops will withdraw from Lebanon within eight to ten weeks after the signing of an accord between Beirut and Jerusalem, according to a draft agreement presented to Israel by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, Lebanese press reports said today.

The agreement, if it were approved by both sides, would be signed by the heads of the delegations to the troop withdrawal negotiations and not by Cabinet ministers, the reports disclosed.

They also said that any accord must be endorsed by the Lebanese parliament and would require U.S.-Arab and Lebanese-Arab consultations to ensure its application concerning a Syrian and Palestinian military withdrawal from north and central Lebanon.

(In Jerusalem, official sources said the Israeli Cabinet would meet tomorrow in a special session to grapple with a number of critical decisions that could have a major impact on the negotiations.)

(Mr. Shultz arrived in Israel yesterday from Beirut to present what was described as Lebanon's "final position." The U.S. Secretary of State was expected to remain in Israel today, although no meetings with Israeli leaders were planned. He was scheduled to return here tomorrow.)

Newspapers here reported that the definitive Lebanese position embraced six points:

— Sa'd Haddad, the renegade Israeli-backed Lebanese Army officer, would be designated a deputy to the commander of the Lebanese Army unit charged with maintaining security in southern Lebanon.

— Five supervision teams destined to ensure that Israel is no longer threatened along its northern border would beestablished that would include no more than 50 Israeli soldiers. The teams would be placed under the direction of a tripartite Israeli-Lebanese-U.S. committee. Security on the ground in the region, in a zone 40 to 45 kilometers (25 to 30 miles) wide from the northern entrance to the Lebanese coastal city of Sidon to the Israeli-Lebanese border, would be the responsibility of a Lebanese Army brigade.

— United Nations forces in southern Lebanon would assist the Lebanese Army in areas near Palestinian refugee camps in Sidon.

— The international peacekeeping force, made up of troops from the United States, France, Italy, and Britain, would be restricted to the region north of Sidon in the mountains, on the international highway linking Beirut and Damascus and the road from Beirut to the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli.

— A framework for mutual Israeli-Lebanese relations would not be examined until after a six-month transition period that would begin after the withdrawals of foreign troops. During this period, Lebanese would be allowed to go to Israel for hospitalization, for cultural reasons, and to take part in religious pilgrimages.

— Lebanon, finally, prefers that an Israeli liason bureau be installed in southern Lebanon but is prepared to allow it to remain in the suburbs of Beirut where a press center currently exists.

Lebanese Forces Commander Warns Syrians
NC052110 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Commenting on the deterioration of the security situation today, commander of the Lebanese Forces Fadi Afram said: It has become clear that there are sides and states which will be harmed if Lebanon emerges from the whirlpool of war and acts of violence, so much so that they have unmasked themselves by committing aggression against the Lebanese people and all their factions.

Afram emphasized that the Lebanese Forces will not accept the repetition of 2 April [not further explained] and after today will not permit the Lebanese people to become fuel for war and scapegoats. He said: Let the Syrians and socialists know that our patience has begun running out and that we have the means to deter anyone who undermines the sovereignty of Lebanon and the security of its citizens.

Syria Moves Tanks, Armored Cars to Upper al-Matn
NC052200 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2145 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] It has been reported from Al-Biqa' that new Syrian tanks and armored cars today entered the Al-Biqa' plain and that some of them proceeded to Al-Mutayn township in Upper al-Matn accompanied by more than 40 personnel carriers and trucks carrying ammunition and mortars.

Israelis, Syrians Continue Reinforcements
NC061127 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, the Israeli forces have brought into the Al-Biqa' a mechanized regiment of 175-mm guns and 40 ammunition carriers and deployed them as follows: Two companies in the vicinity of Majdal Balhis in the western Al-Biqa' and one company in the Kafr Mishki-Rashayya-Hasbayya sector.

On the opposite side, the Syrians brought into the Duhur Zahlah area during the past 24 hours — under the pretext of rotation of forces — four 122-mm field guns, four 120-mm mortars, 53 vehicles carrying ammunition and troops, and a regiment [katibah] of T-68 tanks.

Air Force, Artillery Units Placed on Alert

NC051742 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1718 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] The air and artillery forces of the Lebanese Army have been placed in a state of alert to answer all sources of fire and to repel the treacherous aggression against the Lebanese in their homes and areas. Clear orders have been given to the Army and security commanders in this regard.

A Voice of Lebanon correspondent reports that this decision was adopted during an extraordinary meeting that was held between the president of the republic and the prime minister. The Army commander was invited to attend. The conferees studied this sudden situation and discussed putting an end to the attacks against the Lebanese by this or that side to complete implementation of the policy of displacement and destruction.

As a result of the discussions, General Tannus was instructed that the Army should be prepared to face all eventualities, starting the moment the decision was adopted. Consequently, preparations were made and the Air Force was ordered to act. Consequently, the Air Force carried out reconnaissance flights over the hot areas to explore the aggressors' positions. The air reconnaissance flights will be followed by the appropriate operations. The Army commands in their various centers and barracks have received orders to be on full alert.

The radio correspondent further reports that when the Lebanese warplanes flew in the skies of the areas where the aggressive artillery is emplaced, the shelling operations, which included Beirut and coastal and central areas in the mountain, stopped.

The Voice of Lebanon correspondent adds that upon the instructions of President Amin al-Jumayyil, a telephone contact was held between the two military commands of Lebanon and Syria. The contact took place between Army Commander General Ibrahim Tannus and [Syrian Army Chief of Staff] Major General Hikmat ash-Shihabi. Commander Tannus called for action to put a quick end to the unusual actions being carried out from the artillery emplacements in areas under the control of the Syrian Armed Forces.

It has been reiterated that Syrian Maj Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi answered that he was not aware of this situation and that he would investigate the matter soon.

In light of the present situation, the Lebanese Army is working to obtain information and reveal the sources of the attacks and the sporadic shellings. The Lebanese authorities will adopt the appropriate stand in light of the result of the investigations. Lebanon has decided to make those manning the guns change their views disregarding the Lebanese regime, government, and people.

Beirut Reports on Al-Asad, Fahd Meeting

NC052342 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] On the Arab level, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is in Riyadh to meet with the Saudi Monarch, King Fahd.

PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is still in Damascus, where he is continuing his discussions and contacts with Syrian officials.

Israeli radio has said that the purpose of Al-Asad's visit to Saudi Arabia is to persuade King Fahd not to support the agreement which is likely to be concluded between Lebanon and Israel this weekend if the agreement provides gains for Israel from the point of view of Damascus.

Quoting Arab political sources, the Saudi paper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, which appears in London, today affirmed that discussions are currently taking place on the convocation of a limited Arab summit in which Jordan, Syria, and the PLO will participate. The paper added that a senior Arab official has pointed out that it is very likely that such a conference will be held in Saudi Arabia or Morocco shortly.

This limited summit will come in the wake of the discussions which were held between Al-Asad and 'Arafat and in the wake of the intensive contacts which the PLO is holding with Amman and Damascus.

ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT believes that this summit must be held because it is not possible to convene a plenary summit and because of the U.S. secretary of state's shuttle tours in the Middle East. The paper said that such discussions alone can provide an opportunity for the Arabs to test the credibility of the U.S. Administration and to deprive Israel of reaping the political and strategic fruits of its invasion of Lebanon.

Mufti Khalid on Meeting With Al-Jumayyil

NC051245 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 May 83

[Excerpts] In a surprise gesture, at 1105 today President Al-Jumayyil visited His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the republic, at Al-Fatwa house. The visit lasted 45 minutes during which the talks dealt with the current political developments and the progress of negotiations for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon.

Mufti Khalid told the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY's correspondent:

[Begin recording] His excellency the president surprised us by his good visit this morning at Al-Fatwa house. It was a gesture expressing his nobility and good spirit which we and all the citizens appreciate. The blessed efforts which his excellency is making, despite the difficult circumstances which the country is passing through, will inevitably produce good for Lebanon, God willing.

These efforts are sincere and eager to achieve sovereignty for Lebanon and full freedom for its sons in the country. The government's awareness at this stage is based on high values which the government is consolidating and it is working within their framework for the cohesion of the citizens, their understanding and cooperation on the basis of justice and equality among the citizens.

We were pleased by his excellency the president's optimism at this phase of the negotiations with the Israeli enemy. We regarded as auspicious his hope to attain what will ensure to Lebanon its security and full sovereignty over every inch of its territory.

We sensed his excellency's determination to rebuild Lebanon and develop its establishments and systems so as to bring about the aspirations of its sons for progress and prosperity.

We are confident that such determination increases the citizens' hopes, unifies them, and contributes to their cooperation for the country's interest. We affirm that we supported and continue to support this inclination which falls within the framework of Lebanon's integrity, land, people, and establishment, helps to consolidate Lebanon's sovereignty and solidarity with its Arab fraternal countries, and reinforces its international relations, thus ensuring the restoration of security and stability in the country. [end recording]

Finance Minister Urges Adherence to Cease-Fire

NC051912 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Commenting on the deterioration in the security situation in the mountain today, Finance Minister 'Adil Hamiyah said: At a time when the government is sincerely working to secure withdrawals from Lebanon, these eruptions in the security situation come to reaffirm that there are some working to disrupt the situation whenever signs of agreement or the start of stability appear on the horizon.

He added: On this basis, all Lebanese sides in the mountain are urged to fully abide by the cease-fire preparatory to reaching a radical agreement and to unveiling those who are behind the eruptions. The simultaneous eruptions of the situation in more than one Lebanese area absolutely cannot have occurred by chance.

Islamic Council Calls for National United Stand

NC051839 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] The Islamic Council has called on the Lebanese to adopt a national, united, and comprehensive stand by which all the fuses of artifical disruptions will be dismantled and extinguished — disruptions that are aimed at serving many negative goals. The Council indicated that the time has come for Lebanese ranks and stands to unite in a position by which all the challenges and conspiracies will be confronted. The Council added that the indiscriminate shellings, which have affected a number of Lebanese areas and positions, attempted at the same time to disrupt current efforts to rescue the country.

Sham'un Comments on Security Situation

NC052141 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] [Former] President Camille Sham'un today commented on the indiscriminate socialist shelling of some areas. He said: Has logic been lost on the land of Lebanon? Battles are raging between the Lebanese Forces and the Socialist Party, contrary to all national logic. Syrian artillery participates in these battles now and then contrary to every security need and without any polltical justification.

Sham'un added: Israeli fire is opened when need arises on the basis that the Israelis are occupying forces responsible for security in accordance with international norms. On the other side, there are regular forces in Lebanon in addition to the multinational force and the UN forces who stand as spectators without doing anything to maintain the security. Why then are they here? This is a question that all the Lebanese pose. Has logic finally been lost in Lebanon, and has our sky become empty of any sound thinking?

Major Haddad on Roadblocks, Local Issues

NC060822 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 6 May 83

[Excerpt] Major Haddad, commander of free Lebanon, has issued the following:

1. In view of the fact that the free Lebanon army is establishing roadblocks in several places in free Lebanon and in view of the fact that foreigners may enter the area for sabotage purposes and may wear Lebanese military or religious clothing, the commander of free Lebanon requests military men and members of the Internal Security Forces and the various public security forces to step up control and vigilance. He also requests religious leaders, in case they pass through the roadblocks of the free Lebanon army or the National Guard and are asked to present their identity cards, to do so. We hope they will do so with goodwill, because these roadblocks' task is to safeguard the security and safety of the area's residents.

2. There have been certain night attacks recently on private and public property in the border villages, such as setting vehicles on fire, stealing gasoline from parked cars or breaking street lights and the like. These incidents create an atmosphere of tension and worry among the people that might prompt some of them to open fire on any suspect wandering around their homes and property, causing loss of life. Therefore, Major Haddad hopes these people abandon such heedless acts and avoid wandering in a suspicious manner after 2200. We remind everyone here that the law protects those who open fire against burglars.

3. There has been increasing transport of sand from the shore recently and the gendarmerie has failed to do anything. In viewof this situation, the free Lebanon army's roadblocks and patrols will be entrusted with preventing illegal transport of sand.

INA: Ba'thist Accuses Iranians of Attacks

JN060810 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0630 GMT 6 May 83

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 6 May (INA) — A senior Lebanese politician has warned of the role being played by Iranian groups in Lebanon. He said that the Syrian regime sent these groups to Lebanon to create more obstacles and hamper any attempt to solve the Lebanese crisis and to enable the legitimate authority to esablish its sovereignty over all Lebanon.

In a statement to ATH-THAWRAH, published here today, Dr 'Abd al-Majid ar-Rafi'i, secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command in Lebanon and member of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, said that the Syrian regime is using these groups as a means of pressure in the same way as the Zionist enemy is using agent Sa'd Haddad as a facade through which it can implement what it does not want to implement directly by itself.

Ar-Rafi'i indicated that these Iranian groups were sent to Lebanon during the recent Zionist invasion, that they had settled in Ba'labakk and its outskirts, and that their number had recently climbed to several thousand. He added that these Iranians, who are stationed 80-km from the nearest confrontation line with the Zionist enemy, have not fought the Zionists but are tampering with the citizens' security and stability.

He asserted that the humanitarian establishments in the area where they are residing were not spared by their provocative practices. He indicated that these Iranian groups took control of Ba'labakk hospital, the teachers' institute, and the city park. They also attacked the government house, the real estate departments, private property, and a Lebanese Army post. They attacked an army convoy, killing 12 soldiers and wounding another 12.

Ar-Rafi'i asserted that these Iranians did not go to Lebanon to fight the enemy but to fight the Lebanese, sow sedition, confuse Lebanon, and violate security measures so as to prevent any confrontation of the Zionist enemy.

Amman Weekly: Lebanon Halts Trading With Israelis

JN051101 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 5 May 83 p 1

[Text] Official Arab sources have told AKHBAR AL-USBU' that the Lebanese authorities have issued orders temporarily suspending the sale of real estate in all Lebanon.

These sources added that these orders were issued after some Israelis had bought residential buildings in Beirut and land in southern Lebanon under pseudonyms. The Lebanese Government also ordered that any Lebanese merchant dealing with Israeli merchandise be brought to trial.

Briefs

Envoy to UK Departs — The new Lebanese ambassador to the United Kingdom, staff Major General Ahmad al-Haj, left Beirut today for his post. [Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 May 83 NC]

Al-Asad Attends Celebration on Martyr's Day

JN061148 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 May 83

[Excerpt] On the innocent martyrs' day, President Hafiz al-Asad honored the memory of the martyrs of the homeland and nation by participating in the celebration held on this occasion. He expressed his true feelings toward those who gave their lives and blood for the sake of the homeland, and marched along the path of martyrdom with a firm conviction that their martyrdom was lighting the way for future Arab generations and that, with their pure blood, they were paving the way for absolute victory. The president has, by his well-known words, exalted the value of martyrdom and entrenched its noble meanings. He described the martyrs with words of reverence and glorification.

The president visited the martyrs'cemetery in Najha where he said his prayers on the martyrs' souls and took part personally in glorifying their memory. Upon the president's arrival in Najha, he was greeted by General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces and defense minister, and General Hikmat ash-Shihabi, the chief of staff.

Daily Charges Lebanon Agreement 'Capitulation'

JN060902 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0820 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] Damascus, 6 May (SANA) -- In a commentary headlined "A Draft Agreement or a Capitulatory Settlement," the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH writes: The feverish U.S. political efforts are concentrating on a new Camp David bargain that could result in peddling a capitulatory settlement to divide Lebanon, impair its sovereignty, and plunder its freedom. The paper adds: Reading the clauses of the so-called draft agreement indicates that Israel has achieved military and politicl aims that it could not have achieved through its military invasion.

The appointment of traitor Sa'd Haddad as a military commander in the southern region involves the continuation of the Israeli influence and occupation. To be more accurate, this means the appointment of Haddad as a commander of part of Lebanon as a result of an Israeli decision. This is a divisive step that aids in gradually cutting off southern Lebanon in various ways. The paper adds: If we add to this the so-called security areas in Lebanon, we find that Israel wants to subjugate all Lebanon to its surveillance. Moreover, Israel will not allow Lebanese warplanes to fly unless they have permission in advance.

It continues: What they term a draft agreement is only conditions for capitulation and a reward to the Israeli aggressor for his invasion of Lebanon and crimes against its people. This is something Lebanon should not accept at all, because it means a relinquishment of sovereignty, rights, and freedom. It also turns Lebanon into an Israeli protectorate and a base for espionage and aggression against the Arabs.

Concluding, the paper says: Syria will not allow the invaders to benefit at the expense of Lebanon and the Arab nation. It will also not abandon its stands or relinquish an inch of Arab territory. It is ready to assume the responsibilities of this national and pan-Arab stand regardless of sacrifice.

TISHRIN Attacks Potential Lebanese-Israeli Pact

JN060754 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 6 May 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on U.S. Secretary of State Shultz' tour of the region, today's newspaper TISHRIN writes in its "Behind the News" column: It has become clear that U.S. Secretary of State Shultz is trying to implicate Lebanon in an agreement with Israel. This agreement is closer to a masked capitulation achieved under the pretext of a shortage of time. Some Lebanese circles, well known for their allegiance to Israel, are trying to make Al-Jumayyil's government sign the agreement. This pressure is accompanied by U.S. pressure. Everything appears as if the United States and Israel were determined to divide Lebanon among themselves and give it a mere formal sovereignty to be exploited by the pro-U.S. Arabs in the region as propaganda for Reagan's liquidatory plan.

Al-Jumayyil's government had declared that it will not sign an agreement that will undermine its relations with Syria and the Arabs. The national Lebanese forces warned of the role being played by the pro-Israeli U.S. partner. Syria has also warned against signing an agreement which threatens Israel's [as heard] security, as it considers Syrian and Arab security part of Lebanon's security. Syria has said, through its President al-Asad, that Lebanon's steadfastness against the attempts to impose hegemony over it and to undermine its sovereignty — a steadfastness that Syria supports with all its power — can lead to the evacuation of the invading forces without any gains.

However, Shultz, who is shuttling between Beirut and occupied Jerusalem, is tirelessly seeking to implicate the Lebanese Government in signing an agreement that pratically consecrates Israeli trusteeship over southern Lebanon and U.S. trusteeship over the rest of Lebanon under the pretext of seizing an opportunity before it is too late. Meanwhile, the hostile tone of the statements against Syria is getting stronger, and the cries about increasing Soviet presence in Syria, and the intensified Syrian military danger posed to Israel and the U.S. Mediterranean fleet, are getting louder.

Naturally, those who are blaring these statements ignore the fact that present Lebanon is more like a U.S. and NATO military base, in addition to the tremendous Israeli presence. This situation poses a serious threat to the security of both Syria and the region.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Syria gave its opinion when the propaganda campaign for Reagan's plan was unleashed. Some have tried to drag the PLO into the crucible of liquidatory solutions. Reagan's plan has fallen, and the destiny of any agreement the Americans try to impose on Lebanon, and which threatens Syrian and Arab security, will be no better than Reagan's plan, because Syria has said that it will object to such an agreement or any other agreement that benefitsthe Zionist invaders.

SANA Cites TASS on Israeli Buildup in Al-Biqa'

JN051859 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Beirut, 5 May (SANA) — TASS today reports that the Zionist government has reinforced its military positions in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' and brought in additional units, war materiel, and weapons. The agency pointed out that tanks, armored vehicles, self-propelled artillery pieces, and armored personnel carriers are blocking all roads from the Israeli positions toward Kamid al-Lawz, 'Ammiq, Al-Birah, and Kafr Mishki.

TASS adds that the occupation forces are constructing new fortifications, widening the roads, and erecting sand barriers along the frontline. These forces have begun constructing radar networks near ('Ayn 'Ayta). TASS further adds that the Zionist aggressors last night conducted maneuvers in Al-Biqa' valley using 155-mm howitzers, tanks, armored vehicles, heavy-caliber mortars, and support helicopters. Furthermore, TASS reports, Israeli warplanes are making daily reconnaissance sorties over the Syrian and Lebanese nationalist forces positions.

Ahmad Iskandar Interviewed by Tehran's KEYHAN

JN051212 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Tehran — Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad has stressed that Syria will never deviate from its stands or relinquish an inch of the occupied Arab territories, adding that no force in the world cam make Syria deviate from these stands.

In an interview with the Iranian evening newspaper KEYHAN, published yesterday, the minister said: Syria's stands on the situation in the region are clear and unwavering. The aggressors will not manage to achieve their aims because history is recorded by the faithful masses that have a will, and because the future is subject to the will of strugglers and revolutionaries. The destiny of the aggressors is only annihilation.

The minister added: We can depend on our people's ability as well as the ability of our brothers and friends in the Arab and Islamic states. Moreover, we enjoy the support of our sincere friend, the USSR, and the other socialist countries.

Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad reaffirmed the conditions of the just peace for which Syria aspires. This peace, he said, should be based on the Zionist entity's total withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, in addition to the Palestinian people's right to return to their native homeland, determine their future, and establish an independent state under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

He added: The peace currently proposed in the Middle East means Arab capitulation, and we stress that it is possible to combat this phenomenon. The occupied lands can be liberated and Jerusalem can be restored through struggle. We will not allow what has happened in Sabra and Shatila to be repeated in Syria or any other Arab country. We yearn for peace, but will not capitulate even if we are all martyred.

Asked about a possible Zionist aggression against Syria, the minister confirmed this possibility. However, he emphasized that the Zionists will reap nothing from this aggression, adding that such an aggression will cost them dearly.

On U.S. President Reagan's plan, Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad said: This plan disavows facts and it is closer to death than birth. It is quickly approaching an impasse. He added that this plan aims at consecrating U.S. hegemony and Israeli military hegemony over the region. Deploring the stands adopted by some Arab regimes, the minister said: These regimes, whose true intentions we must doubt, are helping the United States and Israel to destroy the collective Arab resolutions.

Cabinet Meets To Decide on Draft Agreement

Cabinet Session Begins

TA060647 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0635 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] The special Cabinet session began a few moments ago, and the ministers were presented with the text of the draft agreement between Israel and Lebanon worked out by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in the course of his shuttle tour between Jerusalem and Beirut. Let us now transfer the broadcast to the prime minister's office in Jerusalem and our correspondent Sha'ul Stav:

[Stav — live] Right now, as we have already heard, the important — possibly critical — session on the agreement with Lebanon is beginning. About an hour ago, at approximately 0730, Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi and commander of the Northern Command Major General Amir Drori, together with some other top security men, arrived here.

Apparently they came for the last top security consultation prior to the session. Then ministers began arriving, saying hello to the reporters waiting here, and then entering. Judging by their appearance, they were somber and serious, and there was none of the joking, frivolity, and jocular atmosphere that characterizes Cabinet sessions that are not as important and crucial as this one.

Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche, who conducted the negotiations throughout the last few months, also arrived, carrying a thin blue folder. No one knows what it says. Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir arrived after him, clutching a large yellow envelope, apparently containing documents pertaining to the negotiations. Defense Minister Moshe Arens and Deputy Foreign Minister Yehuda Ben-Me'ir arrived together at the prime minister's office. Arens, as usual, was accompanied by his aide-de-camp, Brigadier General Dani Yatom.

At this moment, the entire Cabinet is present in the room above us, accompanied by senior security men from the IDF and other branches, and on the agenda is that most important question: whether or not to accept the proposed agreement as submitted by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz.

There are some problems with the agreement, and apparently it will not be easy for the ministers to vote either for or against it. The decisive matter primarily is the status and role of Major Sa'd Haddad, and the deliberations, as we have heard for the past 24 hours, have been difficult, and are of a political, military, and moral nature. There is no denying that there has been a personal contact with Haddad, established in the course of the long years of cooperation.

That is all from the prime minister's office. We are anticipating a difficult and long session, and will get back to you the moment we have something good; once the Cabinet's decision is revealed, or perhaps even earlier.

Clarifications May Be Sought

TA061113 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1108 GMT 6 May 83

[Telephone interview by announcer Yitzhaq Ro'e with political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer in front of the prime minister's office in Jerusalem — live]

[Text] [Ro'e] Let us go immediately to our political correspondent who is awaiting the decision, Shim'on Schiffer.

[Schiffer] The Cabinet session is still going on, and as far as we have been told from the Cabinet secretariat, the session will last until at least 1500.

The session began with a review by Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche and Major General Avraham Tamir, who presented the proposed Israeli-Lebanese agreement, and right now the ministers expressing their opinion on the agreement are speaking. So far at this Cabinet session, ministers have criticized the proposed agreement. Some ministers said that the agreement is clumsy because it includes so many external documents as well as many secret understandings. Some ministers described the agreement as some kind of arbitration certificate [shetar borerut]; more an agreement with the United States than an agreement with Lebanon.

One minister mentioned the fact that the proposed agreement with Lebanon in fact sacrifices Major Sa'd Haddad, and some ministers have already said that this is not acceptable. Perhaps the most serious criticism we have heard so far is the one by Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i, who said that had he known in advance that we would reach such an agreement — and it was impossible to know this in advance, he said — he would not have recommended setting out on "Operation Peace for Galilee" or the war in Lebanon campaign. At the very least, he would not have recommended continuing it beyond a certain point. However, ministers have also talked about the fact that the rejection of this agreement would also harbor some dangers.

Apparently — and this is an initial assessment — the Cabinet will endorse the proposed agreement with Lebanon in principle, but will request clarifications and will ask that additional amendments be introduced into the agreement which could conceivably improve some of its clauses, primarily those pertaining to Maj Sa'd Haddad.

[Ro'e] Shim'on Schiffer, we have been talking about the prime minister's hesitation and internal debate since this morning. We also elaborated on the importance of this because we expected many ministers' decisions — if not that of all the Cabinet members — to depend on what the prime minister will say. Is that still true?

[Schiffer] Right now it would only be safe to say that the prime minister is not in the habit of expressing his opinion before all his colleagues have spoken their minds. He has always done this. Ultimately, he sums up the remarks and brings it up for a vote.

One could only say that Menahem Begin will make himself very clear at the end of the session, will raise the issue for a vote, and we will know today how the Israeli Cabinet has decided. As we have already said, I believe the Cabinet will adopt this agreement in principle, but some clarifications will be required and there will be a race against time until the weekend, prior to Secretary Shultz' departure for Washington, preceded by a visit to Europe, in an effort to approve this arrangement.

[Ro'e] Shim'on, in other words you believe that no final decision will be made?

[Schiffer] I have already said that I believe a decision will be made, but the way things were presented to the Cabinet, it seems to me that things will not be accepted the way they were received. It looks as though either Philip Habib or perhaps even Secretary Shultz will have to handle a number of additional points.

[Ro'e] Do you think there will be any point in going back to you later on during our brief hour?

[Schiffer] If there is any need for that, we will signal you and request permission to interrupt the broadcast during the program.

Military Aspects Analyzed

TA060607 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 May 83

[Report by military correspondent Shmu'el Tal]

[Text] Most of the important clauses to guarantee Israel's interests in the security strip have not yet been finalized, and there are some operational details that require clear-cut and unambiguous decisions. In the absence of such decisions, the advantage — at best — of the agreement is highly debatable.

The stationing of operational centers, for example, has not yet been finalized, and is a crucial matter. Their location will in fact be the last line where the IDF could operate. The location of the meeting place for the joint patrols, or where the IDF soldiers would meet with the Lebanese Army patrols — this matter too has not yet been concluded. If the meeting place is not convenient for the IDF, the benefit of holding these patrols will be questionable. Israel wants the meeting place to be the operational centers, and that these be as close to the border as possible.

Another open matter is the question of the night patrols. If the Lebanese do not show up for the joint patrols at night, the patrols will not be held, and their advantage will be minimal.

The matter of the possibility of opening fire at squads penetrating the security area is also not clear. If the forces are not allowed to open fire and pursue the terrorist squads, the patrols will only be of token significance. If the most important question is how Haddad's status would affect the efforts the IDF will have to make in the security strip, then this question, too, has not yet been resolved.

If the Syrians refuse to leave Lebanon and the IDF is forced to remain in the south, the presence of Haddad and his men will have a crucial effect on the number of soldiers and on the means the IDF will have to allocate to that front. In such an eventuality, a strong militia under Haddad — whose authority everyone recognizes — will permit the IDF to maintain only a small number of soldiers in the security strip. If, on the other hand, the agreement stipulates that Haddad is not the most important figure, this would force the IDF to deploy a large force in the security strip to do Haddad's job for him.

Even if the Syrians decide to get out of Lebanon, Haddad's presence, with all his men, is required because he can make sure that the terrorists do not return to take up positions in southern Lebanon so that the security strip will really be a security strip.

Another matter that previously placed a big question mark on the real meaning of the security strip, incidentally, is the statement adopted in the negotiations that there will be a horizontal dividing line, confining Haddad's area of operation up to the Az-Zahrani River, north of which a Lebanese unit will be deployed. The effectiveness of the Lebanese Army is in great doubt. This we have already seen during and after the war, when this army found great difficulty in resolving even interfactional disputes in the Beirut area, and the orders it received sounded like a compromise between coalition and opposition.

Therefore, a Lebanese brigade in the south will thus mean that the southern border of the security strip will not actually be the Al-'Awwali River, but the Az-Zahrani, which at some points is only 20 km away from the Israeli border, and this speaks for itself.

Begin Vote Considered Key

TA052013 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 May 83

[Report by political correspondent Yoram Ronen]

[Text] This evening people from the prime minister's office are saying that approval for the agreement with Lebanon is still not guaranteed. The prime minister has not told Secretary Shultz how he will recommend his ministerial colleagues vote. Begin's view, of course, is the key to the voting by most of the ministers, apart, perhaps, from Ari'el Sharon and Yuval Ne'eman, who are expected to vote against.

Shultz' draft agreement requires an Israeli concession on the matter of Haddad, and it has been reported from Beirut that he will not be the commander of the forces in the south, as Israel is demanding [doreshet]. People from the prime minister's office recall that it is not Haddad the man who is now being discussed, but the security arrangements. The prime minister's adviser, Uri Porat, says that the question that will be discussed by the Cabinet is whether the security arrangements Shultz is proposing will guarantee that after the withdrawal, too, Lebanon will not be a terrorist base.

There are some people who define the Cabinet session as a fateful, decisive one. A positive decision means the chance of ending a war of 11 months, moving toward Shultz, and turning

over a new page in relations with the United States. Shultz has said that the Cabinet will have to make difficult decisions and make concessions. In a conversation during the Knesset reception for President Herzog, Shultz said that he was not prepared to speak about optimism or pessimism.

For the moment it seems that, despite the concessions that are required of Israel, the majority of ministers will support accepting the arrangement. It is very difficult to assume that the Cabinet will not respond positively to George Shultz.

Ministers' Views Reported

TA060518 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 May 83

[Excerpt] Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that the prime minister is debating very seriously because of the role offered in the agreement to Major Sa'd Haddad. Our correspondent believes that most of the ministers will determine their positions according to that of the prime minister.

Minister Uzan told our correspondent he would support any suggestion submitted by the prime minister, the foreign minister, and the defense minister to bring about our swift withdrawal from Lebanon. Similar statements were made by other ministers as as well.

The defense minister's position is that maximum achievements should be obtained through these negotiations, but the collapse of the talks should be avoided. The agreement should not be signed at all costs, however, but such an arrangement should be reached that would include as its central point an understanding between Israel and the United States on ongoing mutual affairs and on events in Lebanon.

Israeli sources close to the talks said last night that the country cannot base its fate on one man, and the Cabinet should remember what happened to Bashir al-Jumayyil. One must also remember that Sa'd Haddad is part of the Lebanese Army, not the Israeli Army.

Minister Ari'el Sharon said the system established by Maj Haddad is intended to prevent the renewed activity of terrorists in southern Lebanon, adding that he would not support any agreement that would forsake Haddad.

George Shultz will await the Cabinet decision at Jerusalem's King David Hotel. He plans to leave for Jordan this afternoon, and then to proceed to Syria and Saudi Arabia. According to this plan, Shultz will return to Jerusalem on Sunday for a brief visit. A senior official in Shultz' entourage last night was optimistic that Israel would approve the arrangement. He said the matter of Haddad is not included in the agreement. He will apparently be given an command post devoid of a senior rank as part of an unofficial understanding with Lebanon.

More on Minister's Positions

TA060535 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 May 83

[Report by Political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] This morning many ministers will await word from the prime minister. If Menahem Begin recommends signing the proposed arrangement with Lebanon, the matter will be considered concluded. However, his associates have told us that the prime minister is undecided, as apparently the moral aspect involved in the possibility that Israel might be viewed as having forsaken Haddad is causing him sleepless nights. However, as we have already said, most of the ministers will support the agreement if the prime minister but hints that this is his inclination.

Minister Aharon Uzan told me he would support any suggestion the prime minister, the foreign minister, and the defense minister make that would speed up our withdrawal from Lebanon.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens' position is crucial. Minister Arens believes that the maximum should be extracted from the present negotiations, although the collapse of the talks should be avoided. The agreements should not be signed at any cost, but the other alternatives must also be borne in mind: What will happen if there is no agreement, how things would affect Israeli-U.S. relations, and the effect on the continued IDF presence in Lebanon.

The agreement that will be presented to the ministers this morning is far less than the Cabinet had originally wanted some months ago. Through a gradual sobering-up process, together with the effect of the prolonged war, arrangements that involve security measures rather than a peace agreement with another Arab country, as had originally been expected, seem to be the end result.

In the last few days, during the deliberations with Secretary Shultz, the deputy foreign minister and the director general of the Foreign Ministry, David Kimche, often raised before the U.S. secretary of state the argument: But how will we be able to sell this agreement to the people in Israel? What did a few hundred boys die for?

In principle, even the minimum of the security arrangements Israel is demanding have not yet been concluded or finalized. This morning the Cabinet will be called upon to make difficult decisions because the dispute over the status of Major Sa'd Haddad still remains.

A source closely associated with the talks said last night that the choice is clear-cut: Either to have an agreement with Lebanon, or remain in Lebanon together with Haddad but without an agreement.

Sharon Insists on Security

TA051522 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon has said that at the Cabinet session during which the Israeli-Lebanese draft agreement will be discussed, he will not lend his hand to any agreement that would bring about a situation in which the northern settlements are shelled again.

Returning from the United States, the former defense miniter said that he has not yet seen the draft agreement, but he nevertheless believes that first of all the appropriate security arrangements should be guaranteed, ones that would not allow the northern settlements to come under fire again, or let the terrorists reorganize in various places in Lebanon, because such activity would have an impact on what is taking place in southern Lebanon.

As for Major Sa'd Haddad, Sharon said that it is not only a personal matter or a moral obligation Israel has toward him, but the system he had established intended to prevent the renewed activity of terrorists from southern Lebanon.

Peres on Agreement, Syria

TA051541 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1510 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres does not think there is real danger of war with Syria. He says that celebrations over an agreement between Israel and Lebanon are still too premature. Our correspondent Gabi Zohar talked to Mr Peres at the closing session of the 11th meeting of the Haifa University Board of Trustees:

[Begin recording] [Zohar] Would Israel withdraw from Lebanon after an agreement between the two countries is signed but the Syrians refuse to withdraw from Lebanon? It is too early to tell, Alignment leader MK Shim'on Peres says. There may, he says, be an understanding between Israel and the United States to let Israel remain in Lebanon in the eventuality that the Syrians do not withdraw. A war with the Syrians cannot be foreseen in the horizon, MK Peres says, but celebrations over an agreement with Lebanon are likewise premature.

[Peres] Obviously the current agreement is nothing like the agreement the Cabinet had initially hoped for. The agreement itself has not yet been endorsed, and even if and when it is, it would have to undergo three difficult tests: The Syrian reaction; the Lebanese implementation; and the PLO'S actions in the field. Today the PLO is already in Beirut itself. Any rejoicing now would be too premature.

[Zohar] Mk Peres objects to a unilateral Israeli withdrawal for as long as the negotiations with Lebanon are underway.

[Peres] I believe that as long as the negotiations are going on, we must not withdraw, because if we do, two things will happen: We will be cutting our bargaining power and we may also be stuck in southern Lebanon, which is also a very big and certainly not easy problem. One must not forget that hundreds of thousands of inhabitants reside in southern Lebanon, and not all of them are impressed with Israel.

[Zohar] Shim'on Peres also thinks that Secretary of State Shultz should be allowed to return to the United States with political success, but he emphasized that an agreement between Israel and Lebanon will likewise not be able to solve Israel's problems in the region. [end recording]

Shultz May Leave Before Cabinet Decision

TA051317 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Correspondents report from the U.S. secretary of state's entourage that he may not wait for the Cabinet's decision, but will go to Jordan to meet with King Husayn, and from there to Damascus. After Damascus he will go to Riyadh (the capital of Saudi Arabia), and from there to Paris and the United States.

Refuses To Meet Haddad

TA051110 Tel Aviv YOMAN HASHAVU'A in Hebrew 6 May 83
p 11

[Report by Moshe Yahalom]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz refused to heed an Israeli request to hold direct talks with Major Sa'd Haddad in order to decide on the status of the free Lebanon forces. The talk between Shultz' confidants and senior Israeli officials on the question of Haddad's fate proceeded approximately as follows:

Senior Israeli: Although we have influence on Maj Haddad, he is not in our pocket and he will not do whatever we demand of him. Haddad is a Lebanese patriot and he is first and foremost concerned about Lebanon — not about Israel. We cannot determine Haddad's fate without speaking to him — he is not our vassal.

The Americans: Haddad is distrusted in Beirut, and people there claim that he is more loyal to the IDF than to his motherland. It is no secret that there are those in Lebanon who suggest that Haddad be placed against the wall on charges of treason.

Senior Israeli: As far as we are concerned, we cannot and we do not intend to deal a blow to our friend. We propose that Shultz meet with Haddad, and then he will change his impression. Haddad is a serious man who can be trusted, and contrary to the fluid situation at the B'abda Palace, Haddad's stability will contribute to security in the entire region and not just to Israel's security.

The Americans: It is clear that the secretary of state will not be able to confer with Haddad for political reasons. We conduct talks with statesmen, not with junior military officers and Amin al-Jumayyil would not like such a meeting.

Senior Israeli: Maj Haddad is not just another officer. He has

decisive influence over what happens in southern Lebanon and he is regarded as the leader of the region.

The Americans: All of Haddad's influence, status, and strength depend on Israel, and if you decide to remove your support Haddad will be worth nothing.

Senior Israeli: We stand firm in our belief not to forsake Haddad, especially in view of the fact that our security interests are identical to those of the Haddad forces. It is also inconceivable that Israel should emerge from the Peace for Galilee war with fewer achievements than it had at the beginning of the war, or that the influence we exercised over southern Lebanon should disappear. We will not give up on Haddad, and Secretary of State Shultz would be well advised to confer with him and learn about the views of additional Lebanese, other than those in Beirut.

The Americans: We will not meet with Haddad and that is final.

Egypt To Return Envoy After Agreement Signed
TA060711 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 May 83 p 2

[Text] Egypt is to return its ambassador to Israel soon after an agreement between Israel and Lebanon on the withdrawal of Israeli forces is signed. This was stated this week by authoritative Egyptian and American sources.

The return of the Egyptian ambassador will not have to wait until the actual withdrawal, and will depend only on the signing of an agreement for a withdrawal timetable, it was stressed. In that eventuality, Ambassador Sa'd Mortada, who was recalled to Cairo last September, might come back for a brief period to wind up his tour of duty in Israel before a new Egyptian ambassador is appointed.

American Jewish Congress President Howard Squadron yesterday brought a personal message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to Prime Minister Menahem Begin, reassuring Israel that the peace with Egypt is firm. Mubarak is understood to have expressed his desire to resume negotiations on Tabah, with the aim of resolving the dispute over the small area south of Elat at which the new Sonesta Hotel and the Rafi Nelson Beach Club are situated.

Squadron met the Egyptian president yesterday for one-and-a-half hours in what was described as a very friendly and open talk. Mubarak is understood to have said that the normalization process between Israel and Egypt will continue, although it will have to evolve at a slow and gradual pace.

POST Says Agreement With Lebanon 'Still Elusive'
TA060859 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 May 83 p 18

[Second editorial: "Agreement Still Elusive"]

[Text] For its part, Israel's Government would doubtless like nothing better than to wrap up an agreement for bringing the IDF home from Lebanon. But last night, even as the Cabinet was set for a meeting later today on the draft that the U.S. Secretary of State, George Shultz, helped prepare, the chances of approval seemed uncertain. Moreover, even if the Lebanese relented at the last moment on some points, and thus made the Cabinet's approval possible, it appeared that the Syrians would in any case spike the whole deal.

The emerging agreement with Lebanon would, at best, be a poor man's version of the grandiose peace pact held up by Ari'el Sharon, when he was defence minister, as Israel's war aim. What the agreement now seeks to assure is, essentially, minimal security for Israel against the renewal of terrorist activity from southern Lebanon.

During the past few days the Israeli negotiators, having already given in on some of their earlier demands, have made some further concessions. Thus they agreed in effect that Major Sa'd Haddad would not have supreme command of his militia, which this country still considers a linchpin of any security arrangement. But yesterday it was learned that the Lebanese had conceded to the major only a nominal role, and that for one year.

Another divergence of approach between Jerusalem and Beirut concerns the joint patrols, the now agreed substitute for the early warning stations which Israel had earlier wanted in Southern Lebanon. As the Lebanese see it, Israeli soldiers of these patrols would be allowed to fire in self-defence, but not to give chase to terrorists. That right would be reserved to the Lebanese.

Clarifications on these, and other points, were asked from Beirut, and it was not certain that they would come, in satisfactory enough form, by the time the Cabinet met today. But even if they did, and the Cabinet, even with some internal dissent, ratified the document, there was every indication that the Syrians would interpose their veto — meaning that they would not withdraw their own troops from Lebanon if the agreement went through. Syria, it was made clear by Damascus radio yesterday, would not stand for the termination by Lebanon of the state of war with Israel, nor for any security arrangement benefiting Israel in Southern Lebanon.

Most of all, however, Syria objected to the idea that Israel would have a formal right to intervene in Lebanon to repel attack upon itself. If this is indeed the considered Syrian position, Mr Shultz told reporters that the issue of Syrian withdrawal was "a related but separate matter" between Syria and Lebanon, and not an issue directly bearing on the Israel-Lebanese agreement. But he also allowed that Israel would not withdraw its troops if there was no indication of a pullback by the Syrians, and the PLO.

For the moment, at least, this is exactly the prospect: The Syrians cannot stomach even a minimal non-belligerence accord between Israel and Lebanon, and will not cooperate in a withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon if the accord is ratified. In such a case, the result would be deadlock.

Late Item: Cabinet OK's Agreement 'In Principle'
TA061324 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1319 GMT 6 May 83

[Political correspondent 'Oz Frankel report — live from the prime minister's office, Jerusalem]

[Text] The Cabinet session ended a few minutes ago. As far as we know at present, the Cabinet has decided to accept in principle the text of the agreement. We will now hear Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor's announcement.

[Meridor — first few words covered up by Frankel]... from 0830 [local time] to 1515. It was a long discussion. The Cabinet decided to approve in principle the proposed agreement between Lebanon and Israel. With regard to several security and politicalproblems, the Cabinet will work for further clarifications. I will say this in English.

[Frankel — interrupting] That was the text of the Cabinet decision. The Cabinet accepts in principle the formulation proposed by George Shultz, but it will demand [tidrosh] further clarifications about the security arrangements. As far as we have heard so far, the Cabinet session was very stormy. Many of the ministers expressed their opinions that the proposed security arrangements are not a suitable blockade against terrorists' infiltration from southern Lebanon.

During the session there was serious criticism of the text of the agreements, especially concerning the security arrangements. The Cabinet will demand [tidrosh] further explanations from the Americans, and we think that during the Sabbath, 7 May, feverish discussions will be held with the U.S. team which is still staying in Jerusalem. One of the ministers told us that the explanations that Israel is demanding [doreshet] do not actually involve the Haddad issue. There is a series of issues which still require explanations, but not necessarily on the issue of Sa'd Haddad.

Another detail about the Cabinet session: It seems that the decision that was made in the end is one that was made following a position presented by the prime minister. For the entire 7 hours the prime minister did not express himself. He expressed himself toward the end of the session and, as I said, the ministers, by a majority of votes, have decided to adopt in principle the text of the agreement. This will perhaps, in the near future, lead to the removal of all the foreign forces from Lebanon.

More on Cabinet Decision
TA061355 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1348 GMT 6 May 83

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel from the prime minister's office in Jerusalem — live]

[Text] The picture is getting clearer now. The Cabinet has indeed approved the agreement halfheartedly. It demands [doreshet] additional clarifications, but these clarifications are not a condition for the agreement. Israel has in fact adopted George Shultz' formula, including giving up the status of Major Sa'd Haddad. We have learned that Sa'd Haddad will be the deputy commander of the brigade in the south, the person responsible for intelligence,pprovided he will agree to accept this position.

One of the ministers told us following the meeting: I am not satisfied with the security arrangements. They are not fully satisfactory. However, our assessment was that rejecting the agreement might lead to a more difficult situation.

As for the Cabinet meeting, except for Ministers Ari'el Sharon and Yuval Ne'eman, all 17 of the ministers voted for the decision. Ari'el Sharon told us upon leaving the prime minister's office: The agreement does not give an answer to Israel's security problems.

The meeting was difficult [qasha]. Many ministers expressed themselves against the agreement, but it was the prime minister who, at the end of the 7 hours of discussion, presented the draft resolution accepted by the majority of the ministers. The prime minister called George Shultz on the telephone a few minutes ago and broke to him the news about the decision.

The question now of course is when the foreign forces will leave Lebanon. Shultz will most probably leave for Damascus tomorrow, and it seems that the ball is now in the Syriancourt. They have the answer to this question.

IDF Officers Say Syrian Activity Is Defensive
TA060602 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 May 83

[Excerpt] The Syrians are continuing their entrenchment opposite our forces in the eastern sector and on the line separating the different zones in the Al-Biqa' where there is a great deal of tension. Nonetheless, IDF officers have emphasized that the Syrian activity along that line is basically defensive. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht visited Al-Biqa'.

[Begin Hecht recording] Both sides of the dividing line in Al-Biqa' are teeming with activity. Tanks maneuver, huge bulldozers move mountains, observation posts report each and every movement, and from time to time a nervous volley of shots can be heard whizzing through the air. And in the middle, in the fertile Al-Biqa', farmers sow their land with old-fashioned plows towed by teams of oxen. We are interested in the Syrians, and naturally the unavoidable question is whether they have war in mind.

Eytan, one of the position commanders, says that he cannot read the minds of the Damascus leaders, but observing the area in front of him he can say that the Syrian activity here is not offensive in nature.

Said To Work 'Feverishly'
TA051412 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] The Syrians are continuing to dig in feverishly in the Al-Biqa' region of Lebanon, in the line facing our forces. Since

the beginning of the week they have also been using bulldozers and heavy equipment on the hilltops at a distance of about 17 meters [as heard] from IDF positions.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports from IDF officers in the sector that the Syrian activity is defensive, and there are no signs of offensive intentions on their part. Yesterday Syrian engineering soldiers began a widescale campaign of sowing mines in the buffer zone.

Christian-Druze Artillery Fire Hits IDF Soldiers

One Killed, Nine Wounded

TA051756 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1749 GMT 5 May 83

[Text][No date line or place name as received](ITIM) — An IDF soldier, Sargeant Hayim (Buktos), 21, from Elishama', was killed and nine soldiers were wounded this afternoon, most of them slightly, when IDF vehicles moving in the area of (Suk al-Arab) southeast of Beirut were caught in artillery fire exchanges between Druze and Christians.

One of the shells exploded near the vehicles and caused the casualties among our forces. The wounded were evacuated to hospital.

Marine Helicopter Fired Upon

TA051250 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1242 GMT 5 May 83

[Excerpts] There has been an exchange of artillery fire between Druze and Christians in the Ash-Shuf hills area, and it is continuing to this very moment, the cease-fire proclaimed at 1300 notwithstanding.

Meanwhile, the Voice of Lebanon has reported that the Druze, who are reportedly being supported by the Syrians, fired surface-to-air missiles at a U.S. Marine helicopter near 'Aytaqt, forcing the helicopter to turn back. A handgrenade was also thrown at a French armored vehicle in the Beirut vicinity, but no casualties have been reported in that incident.

Our Arab affairs correspondent Gay Bekhor reports that the Christian Phalangists issued a communique accusing the Syrians of heating up the Beirut area front with the aim of torpedoing the agreement slowly emerging between Israel and Lebanon.

U.S. Removes Restrictions on Lavi Technology

TA051108 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 5 May 83 p 1

[Report by military correspondent Ya'aqov Erez]

[Text] The U.S. Administration has removed all the restrictions on the transfer of technology pertaining to the manufacture of the Lavi, and the data will arrive in Israel as scheduled.

The Defense Ministry received cables from the U.S. Defense Department and State Department 2 days ago which explain that the hitches in the transfer of technology pertaining to the manufacture of the Lavi's wings and flight control system have been removed, and the data would be transferred to Israel according to the contracts signed with the U.S. companies.

In his talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, Defense Minister Prof Moshe Arens raised Israel's complaints on this issue. On the eve of Independence Day, a note from Secretary Shultz reached the defense minister's office according to which all the hitches had been removed, but it later emerged that a large part of the data had yet again been held up. Following strenuous efforts by the defense minister and the Israeli Embassy in Washington, it was announced yesterday that all the restrictions have been removed and the data for the manufacture of the various elements would arrive as scheduled.

Hayim Herzog Sworn In as New President

TA051737 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 May 83

[Excerpt] A few minutes ago, in the Knesset building, Hayim Herzog was sworn as the sixth president of the State of Israel.

[Begin Herzog recording] [recorded in progress]... of Rabbanit Sara Herzog, I bind myself to keep the faith with the State of Israel and its laws, and to faithfully fulfill my post as president of the state. [end recording]

ALGERIA

Prime Minister Comments on African Trip

LD051211 Algiers APS in English 1005 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Algiers, 5/5/83 (APS) — Mr Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani, Polibureau member, prime minister granted yesterday an interview to the press, in which he made an evaluation about his recent tour in Africa — Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde, Benin, Sao Tome Principe and Cameroon. And about the talks he had with the high officials of these countries.

The prime minister, said that he had been entrusted by President Chadli to carry out a double mission: On one hand to reinforce the cooperation with African countries and express our concern over some present questions: the North-South dialogue, the Middle East and especially the question of OAU and the attacks it faces up on the second one.

As concerns the Pan-African organisation Mr Abdelghani said that Algeria agreed to the proposal of the group of 12 for the holding of the coming OAU summit. "During my recent tour through the African countries," the Algerian prime minister added, "the African high officials expressed their concern to preserve our organisation and answered favourably to the Algerian proposal advocating a permanant OAU headquarter in Addis Ababa for instance." After having recalled the various accords signed with the neighbouring countries, Niger and lately Tunisia, the prime minister said, the Malian head of state will shortly pay a visit to Algeria to sign a similar accord.

The question will be settled down in the way with Mauritania.

Concerning Morocco, Mr Mohamed Abdelghani declared that since 1972 the question of frontier with this country had definitely been settled down by underlining that these actions came within the framework of seeking out peace and stability in the region.

had the opportunity to explain the sense [as received] initiative by President Chadli and his meeting with King Hassan II. "This initiative, welcomed with serenity, satisfaction, and sympathy by the African high countries will help facilitate the people of Morocco and Western Sahara people.

Evoking the echo given to President Chadli's thesis over Inter-African cooperation, Mr Abdelghani said that Algeria managed to gain time owing to the conception which consists in acquiring directly the products Algeria need. [sentence as received]

He further added that ways and means to reinforce the exchanges within the framework of South-South cooperation to give henceforth a better sense to our action undertaken in this sense North South our South North have been examined. [sentence as received]

FLN Officials Welcome Vietnamese Delegation

LD042212 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 May 83

[Text] A Vietnamese delgation headed by Mr Vu Kuang, member of the Central Committee and director of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Vietnamese Communist Party, arrived in Algiers at noon today on a visit to our country at the invitation of the FLN party.

At the airport the Vietnamese delegation was received by brothers Husayn Hamel, member of the Central Committee and speaker of the External Relations Committee, and Mourad Lamoudi, director of the External Relations Committee of the party.

This visit by the Vietnamese delegation comes within the framework of reinforcing the relations between the FLN and the Vietnamese Communist Party.

Foreign Ministers, Envoys Meet on African Policy

LD051242 Algiers APS in English 1009 GMT 05 May 83

[Text] Algiers, 5/5/83 (APS) — Conference of heads of Algerian diplomatic mission in Africa held a meeting yesterday under the chairmanship of Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi.

In his intervention the foreign minister defined the big axes of Algeria's African policy and dimensions of cooperation with the continent.

He evoked latest political developments in the Maghreb, the Mediterranean basin and Africa.

Referring to the Chadli-Hassan II meeting as an impetus to the dynamic of peace in the region Mr Ibrahimi expressed hope for the establishment of a new era of cooperation, fraternity and concord among all peoples of the Maghreb based essentially on the respect of rights of the Saharan people to self-determination and independence and intangibility of frontiers.

The foreign minister recalled the African policy of Algeria precising that its bases were laid down during the liberation war and consolidated after the independence by the national charter.

This policy calls for a regular increase of our commerical exchanges and the widening of domains of cooperation in order to include economic, financial, technical and cultural fields.

On their turn ambassadors intervened to make an evaluation of the situation in Africa and Algeria's relations with other African countries.

Mr Slimane Hoffman, head of FLN Commission for Foreign Relations,attended this meeting.

LIBYA

JANA: Brazilian Parliamentarians on U.S. Presence

LD051933 Tripoli JANA in English 1822 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Brasilia, Rhyh 23, May 5, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — A number of Brazil's members of parliament have expressed astonishment at the presence of U.S. military planes in the country, coinciding with the detention of the Libyan planes which were heading for Nicaragua.

They asked the chairman of the parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee to clarify the information given by the government on the Libyan planes question, for the information did not reveal that an American Hercules military plane was parking near the Libyan planes with 13 CIA agents aboard it.

The parliamentarians expressed displeasure with the government's stand on the issue. They [words indistinct] to a deliberate attempt to divert attention from the presence of the U.S. planes. This has further convinced them that the U.S. was applying pressure on the government copcerning the Libyan planes, which were carrying aid to the Nicaraguan people.

TUNISIA

Mzali Holds Talks with EC's Gaston Thorn

LD052026 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Mr Mohamed Mzali dedicated the second day of his visit to Belgium to talks with the European Commission. These talks were crowned with a joint communique which says:

Mr Mohamed Mzali, the Tunisian prime minister, held talks with the president of the European Commission, Mr Gaston Thorn. The talks were attended by Mr Noureddine Hached, Tunisian ambassador to Belgium and representative to the EC. The talks included political and economic issues of mutual interest, and the international situation, especially the current developments in the Middle East. Regarding the latter, the Tunisian prime minister called on the commission to shoulder more responsibility in finding a just and comprehensive solution to this conflict.

The prime minister, in the context of a comprehensive address at the talks, pointed out to the EC that relations between Tunisia and the community are now at a crossroads because of the expansion of the community. We can see a broad range of joint views which take into consideration the gains of the past and the horizons of the future. Mohamed Mzali stressed the importance of the Arab Maghreb in the framework of the principal premises which Europe must take into consideration in formulating a responsible Mediterranean policy which suits the requirements of solidarity, integration, economic and social security, and stability in our region.

The EC on its part stressed the importance it gives to its excellent relations with Tunisia and noted that in its statement dated 24 June 1982 it had expressed its belief in the importance of preserving the gains represented by the treaties and also the importance of reinforcing cooperation and strengthening trade with the Mediterranean countries, especially Tunisia, in the framework of the EC after it expands to include Spain and Portugal. The commission expressed its satisfaction regarding the progress achieved in reviving Maghreb economic unity and considers it a factor for peace and economic and social progress in the area. The commission also thinks that because of this the cooperation between the two sides of the Mediterranean can assume new dimensions.

The talks between Tunisia and the commission included issues of mutual interest, such as the relations between the North and South, the Arab-European dialogue and the sixth international seminar for trade and development.

ETHIOPIA

National Military Service Legalized by Decree

NC051026 Paris AFP in English 0855 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Addis Ababa, May 4 (AFP) — Ethiopia's ruling military council, or Dergue, last night issued a long-awaited decree legalizing national military service, for the first time in the country's history.

All citizens between 18 and 30 years will be eligible for conscription, and people up to 50 years will be trained as reservists. It follows a May Day speech by head of state Mengistu Haile Mariam in which he accused detractors of trying to undermine government plans to launch it.

The decree, carried in a radio broadcast to the nation, said those in the 16-30 age bracket would be expected to register for pre-induction military training according to instructions to be issued by the defence minister.

They were to carry their certificates of registration, the radio said, and be ready for military training lasting six months followed by a 2-year service in the Armed Forces, the police or the frontier guards.

Those in their final year at college or vocational institutions would be given deferment, while anyone certified as physically unfit would be exempted.

The law also specifies the social and employment benefits of those receiving honourable discharge, including priority in higher education, jobs and medical care.

Although unannounced, a second decree establishing a national defence and security council is also in circulation in the Ethiopian capital.

The council's very existence was made public for the first time on Monday night when the Dergue appointed former eastern sector commander, Brigadier General Mulatu Negash, as the council's secretary-general.

According to the decree published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE, the council has the task of formulating the country's military and civil defence policy. This would include planning both for war and for natural calamities.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu emphasized some time ago the need for civil defence when he said the nature of modern warfare was such that long-range offensive weapons used by an enemy could strike deep into the heart of the nation's cities and factories.

The council, responsible to the head of state, would also have the duty of initiating or evaluating overall policy regarding the use of the country's human and material resources in a time of general mobilization. Its membership includes the head of state, the Dergue's secretary-general and the ministers of defence, interior and of public and state security.

Military Delegation Returns From USSR

EA051219 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 4 May 83

[Excerpt] A delegation led by Comrade Lieutenant Colonel Kibret Gonetie, member of the COPWE Central Committee and deputy head of the Political Department of the Revolutionary Army of Revolutionary Ethiopia, arrived in Addas Ababa this morning after a working visit to the USSR.

Eritrean Official Urges Unity Among Factions

GF041322 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0850 GMT 4 May 83

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 4 May (WAM) — Osman Saleh Sabbe, secretary general of the Eritrean Liberation Front Popular Liberation Forces affirmed that units of the Eritrean revolution are struggling for the right to self-determination and the holding of a referendum in Eritrea under international supervision. Ethiopia, however, refuses to accept this proposal and demands that the Eritreans agree beforehand to stay within Ethiopia in a confederal union.

In an interview with AL-ITTIHAD, he expressed hope that the current year will be a year of total unity for the three factions of the Eritrean revolution to allow the achievement of national unity by the Eritrean people and to form one Eritrean delegation to speak to the world and negotiate with Ethiopia for liberation.

He said: We are currently making efforts to negotiate with Ethiopia to form one Eritrean delegation and to achieve national unity. However, Ethiopia wants to negotiate with each faction separately. Through these negotiations we are trying to restore Eritrea's freedom, despite the various plans proposed by Ethiopia and mediators.

SOMALIA

President Receives Kenyan Foreign Minister

EA051304 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 0330 GMT 5 May 83

[Excerpt] The president of the Socialist Democratic Republic, Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, last night received Kenyan Foreign Minister Mr Robert Ouko and his delegation at the Presidency. The delegation arrived here yesterday for a 2-day visit.

The minister conveyed greetings and a message from President of Kenya His Excellency Daniel arap Moi to Challe Siad. President Challe Mohamed Siad Barre, who spoke briefly to the delegation, said he hoped that the neighborly and cooperative relations between the two countries will continue to be strengthened. Challe Siad also wished the delegates a good journey and asked Mr Robert Ouko to convey his greetings to His Excellency Daniel arap Moi. The minister in turn expressed gratitude for the warm reception accorded him and his delegation.

Communique Issued on Visit

EA051613 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1400 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] A joint communique issued today by the SDR and the Republic of Kenya states that the two countries will strengthen bilateral cooperation. The communique was issued following the visit to the SDR by Kenyan Foreign Minister Dr Robert Ouko. The two sides agreed to strengthen trade, agricultural and cultural relations. The Somali and Kenyan foreign ministers said in their communique that every effort must be made to strengthen the OAU.

During their talks this morning at the Foreign Ministry, the foreign ministers agreed that problems in the Horn of Africa should be solved peacefully. Challe Abdurahman Jama Barre and Mr Robert Ouko agreed that Israel must withdraw from Arab land occupied in 1967 and remove its forces from Lebanon. The ministers agreed on the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

The foreign ministers of Somalia and Kenya stressed during their meeting the need for the Western Contact Group to press South Africa into granting unconditional independence to Namibia. The ministers called for an immediate cease-fire in the war between Iraq and Iran, which is of no benefit to the people living in the region. The foreign ministers of the SDR and Kenya also noted that it is essential to implement the OAU's 1981 resolution calling for a referendum in Western Sahara.

Kenya's foreign minister last night delivered a special letter to President Challe Mohamed Siad Barre from President Daniel arap Moi.

The minister and his delegation left for home this afternoon after ending their visit to the SDR. They were seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister Dr Abd Urahman Jama Barre; the director general of the Foreign Ministry, Challe (Hashi Abdallah Farah); and others.

Somali-Kuwaiti Communique on Mass Media Cited

EA052058 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1400 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] A delegation led by Challe Colonel Mohamed Omar Jess, information and national guidance minister of the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR], left Kuwait this morning for Jidda for a brief visit.

Following the visit of the minister and his delegation, Somalia and Kuwait issued a joint communique. It said the two sides held extensive talks on relations and cooperation between the two fraternal countries, particularly in the sphere of communications. In the communique, the Kuwaiti Government promised to expedite the completion of the color television installations. The communique went on to say that the Kuwaiti Government would help Somalia train personnel to manage and create television programs.

Mohamed Omar Jess, SDR information and national guidance minister, thanked the Kuwaiti Government for the generous aid it is giving to the SDR which, he said, will greatly contribute toward improving and enhancing the Somali people's standard of living. The communique said Somalia and Kuwait have agreed to exchange visits and ideas in the field of information and to strengthen bilateral relations.

Challe Jess, SDR information and national guidance minister, invited Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah, the Kuwaiti deputy prime minister who also holds the foreign affairs and information portfolios, to visit the SDR. Mr as-Sabah accepted the invitation.

The SDR information minister and his delegation paid a courtesy call on the Amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah. The minister also met the prime minister, his deputy, and departmental chiefs of the Kuwaiti Information Ministry, and, with his delegation, visited historic sites and development projects in Kuwait. Challe Jess also held a press conference, which was widely publicized by the media.

GHANA

Workers Condemn Science, Technology Students

AB051940 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] The 1983 budget proposals continue to attract comments. A joint statement by the Workers' Defense Committee [WDC] and the Teachers and Educational Workers Union of the University of Ghana commended the workers of Obuasi who went to the campus of the University of Science and Technology and displayed what it described as a principled stand against reactionary and destructive activities by certain misguided students. The workers expressed concern at the inability of students to appreciate the magnitude of the crisis facing the nation and the need to consolidate our ranks to pull this country out of the mess and the struggle to build a popular democracy. The statement said much as the workers recognize the need for an alliance with the students, the whole student body bears full responsibility if they allowed themselves to be misled by a few misguided ones who are in the pay of local and foreign reactionaries.

The Ghana-Italian Petroleum [GHAIP] Workers Defense Committee has also dissociated itself from a resolution purported to have come from the rank and file of the GHAIP workers. In a statement signed by the WDC chairman, Mr A.K. (Pinto), the committee said at a general meeting held on 27th of last month workers were opposed to the inclusion of a resolution which might appear to distract the government from its task of peace and stability. The statement called on the Provisional National Defense Council to implement without delay the suggestion for a transport pool system, the food evacuation task force, and other measures aimed at bringing relief to workers.

Workers in the Sekondi-Takoradi District have, on the other hand, declared that the budget is not in the interest of the common man and it should be withdrawn. The declaration is contained in a four-point resolution adopted at a May Day rally held at Bottom Tree in Takoradi. The resolution said in view of the critical food situation, the government must import food under a certificate of urgency.

Mine Workers Attacked

AB060802 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] The government of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] has expressed grave concern about reports reaching it that mine workers from Obuasi, while peacefully demonstrating in solidarity with the WDC's [Workers Defense Committees] of the University of Science and Technology, were attacked by a section of the students. According to the reports, five mine workers were injured, three severely, and have been hospitalized since. Two buses which conveyed the mine workers, one Peugeot caravan, and one information service van, were set on fire. In view of the acute transportation problems facing the nation, such wanton acts of destruction, especially from people who profess to be the champions of the workers, can only be viewed with outrage.

The government is aware of strenuous efforts being made by certain hirelings on the campuses in the pay of detractors to stir up violent confrontations between sections of the society and to bring lief on the universities to a standstill. Meanwhile the government wishes to assure the mine workers that the culprits will be brought to justice. It calls on all patriotic workers and students to expose this network of sabotage.

Seminar Ends in Accra, Supports Budget

AB042208 Accra Domestic Service in English 2145 GMT 4 May 83

[Excerpt] The 2-day seminar on the budget ended in Accra this evening. In his closing remarks, the Provisional National Defense Council coordinating secretary, Mr P.V. Obeng, said contributions indicate that even though the budget is harsh, it is necessary if Ghanaians want to achieve the goals of the government's economic recovery program. The secretary for information, Miss Joyce Aryee, said that the seminar is only the beginning of a series to be organized to educate the people on government's policy.

Further Report

AB050958 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] The 2-day seminar on the 1983 budget ended in Accra yesterday. In his closing remark, the Provisional National Defense Council coordinating secretary, P.V. Obeng, assured Ghanaians that all views collected would be integrated to enable rough edges in the budget statement to be straightened without necessarily destroying its ultimate benefits for a successful implementation.

Mr Obeng said a $10 million loan is being negotiated for an economic cooperation agreement with the Soviet Union to reactivate the prefabricated concrete project, the gold refinery at Tarkwa, and the Bui Dam. He added that the government is mounting an operation to combat rampant gold theft at the mine.

A representative of the 4 June Movement described the budget as representing an honest attempt at remedying the economic situation for a better future. He said it would be suicidal and a betrayal of the course of the struggling people if the government should sidestep the truth and shift the burden on the future generation. The movement advised the government to immediately launch and implement its mobilization program to reduce redundancy. It warned all dissidents and disgruntled politicians to desist from exploiting the people's genuine expression of grievances to their personal advantage.

In its contribution, the Democratic Youth League of Ghana congratulated the organizers of the seminar by calling the seminar at a time when the enemies of the revolution have suddenly become workers' allies to pollute their minds about the budget. It suggested similar seminars at the regional and district centers to educate workers on the reality of the economic situation.

Government To Raise Producer Price of Cocoa

AB041904 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 4 May 83

[Text] With effect from the new cocoa season, the government will pay 600 cedis for a 30-kg bag of cocoa. This represents an increase of about 67 percent over the present price of 360 cedis. Dr Joe Abbey of the National Economic Review Committee confirmed the new price in answer to a question at the 2-day seminar on the budget.

A hint of the new price was first given by the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] secretary for finance and economic planning in a special "Meet the Press" program on radio and television 12 days ago. It was also announced at the seminar that about 35 to 40 percent of the country's cocoa farms have been destroyed by bushfires. According to the PNDC coordinating secretary, Mr P.V. Obeng, who also has ministerial responsibility for the cocoa industry, the government has already started a move for a massive rehabilitation of the destroyed farms and the restructuring of the cocoa industry as a whole.

Tribunal Office Condemns Newspaper's Charges

AB032044 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 3 May 83

[Statement from the office of the coordinator, investigations, vetting, and tribunals issued in Accra on 3 May — read by announcer]

[Excerpts] The attention of the office of the coordinator, investigations, vetting, and tribunals has only belatedly been drawn to the PIONEER's editorial of Wednesday, 13 April 1983, headed: "One Law for the Civilians." The editorial was most unfortunate, this as it appears to be with little or no research in the absence of consultation with the relevant authorities. It was also most unfortunate in its attempt to create an unhealthy and unnecessary tension between civilians and members of the Armed Forces and the police.

We are (?therefore forced) to give response to the editorial [words indistinct] firstly, for its unfortunate attack on public tribunals, and, secondly, to let the public know the full facts surrounding the withdrawal of Inspector Nunoo from the price control tribunal in Accra.

The editorial states that the price control tribunal found nothing seriously wrong with the special public prosecutor who collects bribes from suspects. This is surprising since the tribunal ordered the withdrawal of Inspector Nunoo on the basis of mere allegations, even while steps were being taken to investigate the allegations. In fact, investigations were in progress when the PIONEER published in the editorial that the inspector was removed from the position and told to go home a free man to go and [words indistinct] with that money. The investigation has been prolonged by the flat refusal of Mr Frank Otchere, the GHANAIAN TIMES reporter who filed the story, to cooperate with this office. When Mr Otchere was finally contacted after several attempts to meet him had failed, he stated that: "It will be contrary to my journalistic ethics to reveal my source." And yet the story as filed has such an air of finality about it that one is even tempted to pardon the PIONEER for failing to consult with any authorities before publishing the said editorial.

Possibly (? Mr Otchere) had some information that was and still is not available to the investigators and which could have speeded up the investigations. Unfortunately, journalistic ethics would not allow such speedy justice. The position now, therefore, is that the inspector has been withdrawn from the tribunal whilst investigations continue into the matter. Hopefully, it would not be long before he is brought to trial if a triable case is disclosed by the investigation.

The impression that the editorial seeks to create that there is one law for civilians and one for force personnel, even in these revolutionary times, is the unkindest cut of all. Since the establishment of the public tribunal, not less than 18 members of the forces — military and police — have been convicted and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment ranging from 6 years to 15 years. Many of these were given wide prominence in the mass media.

In the circumstances, this office cannot but respectfully ask the PIONEER to withdraw the statement in its editorial that the country is yet to hear of the proclamation of any law making it mandatory for only civilians to be sent to jail, and to publish an apology to that effect. That statement is not only palpably false, it is also seditious since it seeks to incite one indentifiable group in the country against another.

IVORY COAST

Nigerian Minister Gives Message to President

AB041620 Lagos NAN in English 1604 GMT 4 May 83

[By Samuel Ajibola]

[Text] Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast, May 4 (NAN) — The external affairs minister, Professor Ishaya Audu, yesterday in new Ivorian capital, Yamoussoukro, delivered a special message from President Shehu Shagari to President Felix Houphouet-Boigny.

The content of the message was not immediately known but Professor Audu told the Abidjan correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that he had a discussion with the Ivorian president on problems facing the OAU. President Houphouet-Boigny expressed concern at the crisis plaguing the organisation, according to Professor Audu.

As a founding member of the OAU I am pained at the present state of the organisation and I can assure you of my appreciation of Nigeria's commendable effort in saving the OAU from disintegration, the external affairs minister quoted President Houphouet-Boigny as saying.

Nigeria has a responsibility to bring African countries together, the Ivorian president said.

The minister, who had earlier held a similar discussion with the Senegalese president, Mr. Abdou Diouf, on Monday would not

say whether both Presidents Diouf and Houphouet-Boigny have agreed to attend the Addis Ababa summit. He stated that although the current OAU chairman had not sent out formal invitations for the June summit, it was expected that response will be positive, and that African leaders will meet in the spirit of African brotherhood to resolve their differences.

Professor Audu is expected to leave Ivory Coast today for Lome, Togo, to deliver a similar message to President Gnassingbe Eyadema.

Nigeria is a member of the 12-nation Contact Group set up after the two unsuccessful OAU summits in Libya, last year, to explore ways of making the 19th OAU summit a success.

Further Report

AB051110 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French
5 May 83 p 13

[Text] The Nigerian minister of foriegn affairs on Tuesday paid a short visit to Yamoussoukro, during which he was received by the head of state. The 90-minute talk between Minister Audu and President Felix Houphouet-Boigny centered mainly on relations between the two countries within the framework of the OAU, whose next summit will be held in June in Addis Ababa, the organization's headquarters. Present at the audience were Foreign Minister Simeon Ake and Nigeria's ambassador to Ivory Coast. At the end of the audience the Nigerian minister stated:

"Bilateral relations between our two countries are good, there are no problems. We discussed multilateral issues. President Houphouet-Boigny and I discussed issues relations to the OAU, of which he is one of the founding fathers. That is why he makes efforts both on the political and economic levels to help strengthen the OAU in the service of Africa.

"As a founding father of the OAU, he gave me a lecture on this organization. He talked about the problems they faced during its creation, as well as current problems. He talked about the best ways to solve these problems. It was a very rewarding lecture for me. I leave with the assurance that President Houphouet-Boigny will do everything in his power to safeguard African unity."

Shortly after this statement, the Nigerian minister left Yamoussoukro for Abidjan, from where he left for his country.

President Orders Halt to Eviction of Tenants

AB052123 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT
5 May 83

[Announcement from the president's office, issued in Abidjan on 5 May]

[Text] It has come to the attention of the head of state that, without waiting for the outcome of the ongoing inquiry, some people who bought or rented houses meant for low-income workers and sublet them, are using court bailiffs to evict tenants from these houses.

The president of the republic hereby orders those who have been so evicted to return to their houses. It is only the outcome of the ongoing inquiry which will determine the real owners of these houses, and it is then that appropriate measures will be taken.

In case of any difficulties, and if any person is evicted or threatened with eviction, that person should immediately contact the National Commission of Inquiry headed by Bah Robert.

Gong Dafei Discusses Meeting With Bedie

AB051100 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French
5 May 83 p4

[Text] Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Gong Dafei, who arrived in our country last Sunday, was received in audience yesterday morning by National Assembly President Henri Konan Bedie.

The Chinese deputy minister told the press at the end of the audience that it is a great honor for him to be the first Chinese to be officially received in this country.

"I have been accorded a very friendly reception, first by the president of the republic and also by the president of the National Assembly, since I arrived in this country," he said. Gong Dafei said his talks with Henri Konan Bedie took place in an "atmosphere of deep friendship." The talks centered on bilateral issues, he added.

"I informed him about what is happening in our country, especially about our National Assembly, the People's Assembly, the minority policy in our country, and our agricultural policy. President Bedie also informed me about what is happening here in the Ivory Coast. We both expressed the desire to develop relations between our two parliaments: China's People's Assembly and the National Assembly in the Ivory Coast."

The Chinese deputy minister of foreign affairs will hold talks with other Ivorian officials.

More on Official's Visit

AB052059 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT
5 May 83

[Text] In continuation of his friendly and working visit to the Ivory Coast, Gong Dafei, the Chinese vice minister of foreign affairs, was received today by the minister of agriculture. On this occasion, Denis Bra Kanon outlined to his Chinese guest the history of agriculture in the Ivory Coast from 1944 to the present day, pointing out the achievements made after 21 years of independence.

After referring to the problems related to the fall of prices of agricultural products and the financing of our development, the two ministers agreed upon the possibility of cooperation in the near future through the promotion of foodstuffs — especially rice and maize — the search for new markets for export products, and the mechanization of small-scale farming. The Chinese vice minister was very impressed by the achievements made in agri-

culture in the Ivory Coast and by the personality of farmer-President Felix Houphouet-Boigny.

The Chinese delegation will visit the agroindustrial complex of Loka tomorrow in the company of the secretary of state for agriculture, Gilles Laubhouet.

LIBERIA

Two New Ministers, Other Officials Appointed

AB041638 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1600 GMT 4 May 83

[Excerpt] With the advice and consent of the People's Redemption Council, the head of state and chairman of the People's Redemption Council, Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe, has made a number of important changes in government. An Executive Mansion release announced the changes as follows:

Minister of Justice	Jenkins Scott
Minister of Posts and Telecommunications	Capt Scott Toweh
Director General of the Cabinet	Wilton S. Sankawolo
Deputy Minister of Justice for Economic Affairs	Councillor (Joseph Kinde)
Deputy Minister of Commerce, Industry and Transportation for Administration	(Arthur Bentu)

MALI

Traore To Begin Official Visit to Algeria 7 May

AB051654 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 5 May 83

[Excerpt] The head of state, President Moussa Traore, begins an official visit to Algeria next Saturday, 7 May.

During his 3-day stay, the head of state will be accompanied by a large delegation including Mohamedoun Ag Hamani, external relations secretary of the Central Executive Bureau [BEC]; Oumar Coulibaly, economic and social affairs secretary of the BEC; and the minister of state for economy and planning. Two other ministers who will accompany the head of state are Alioune Blondin Beye, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, and Lieutenant Colonel Abdrhamane Maiga, minister of interior.

With the presence of these four top political and administrative officials, it can be envisaged that apart from the political talks, discussions on technical matters will also be held during the president's visit. These talks will help in strengthening cooperation between Algeria and Mali.

Draft Signed for Islamic Financial System

AB051628 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 5 May 83

[Excerpt] President Moussa Traore this morning held private talks at the People's House with Prince Mohamed al Faysal al-Sa'ud, president of the Saudi Arabian Bank, Dar al Maal al Islami. These talks preceeded the signing of a draft agreement providing for the establishment of an Islamic financial system in Mali.

The West has always taken the initiative in economic matters; it is now our turn to take the initiative, Prince Mohamed said.

NIGERIA

Talks on Border Problems With Chad End

AB051556 Lagos NAN in English 1552 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Lagos, May 5 (NAN) — Nigerian and Chadian officials today ended two days of talks in Lagos on ways to end the long-standing border problems between their two countries.

A statement today from the Ministry of External Affairs in Lagos said that the officials also discussed ways of diffusing the tension at the border.

The statment said that the Nigerian delegation was led by the minister of state for external affairs, Alhaji Bello Kirfi, while the Chadian delegation was led by the country's minister of foreign affairs, Mr Karim Togoi.

AFP Report on Talks

AB060636 Paris AFP in English 0341 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] Lagos, May 6 (AFP) — Nigeria and Chad have opened talks here to defuse tension in the Lake Chad area following clashes there between their troops last month, Foreign Ministry officials disclosed Thursday night. They said the talks opened on Tuesday to examine the circumstances "which have led to the unfortunate and unsavory incidents."

On April 28, the Nigerian Defense Ministry reported there had been clashes during the previous 10 days in which two Chadian soldiers were killed and a Nigerian was wounded. The northern Nigeria SUNDAY TRIUMPH later said 45 Nigerians had died. Military sources have declined to confirm or deny that figure.

The Foreign Ministry sources said the important point at issue in the talks here was to find "ways and means of defusing the tension in the area, which would lead to eventual long-term and final settlement."

Nigeria's delegation is headed by Foreign Affairs Minister of State Bello Kirfi. It includes the Defense Ministry's permanent secretary, Aminu Saleh. The Chadian side is led by Foreign Affairs Minister of State Ahmet Korom, and includes the permanent secretary in the president's office, Karim Togoi. Also in the party are Defense Ministry officials and the administrator of the

Lake Chad region.

Nigerian sources noted that it was very difficult to hold an inquiry in the lake area because of extremely insecure conditions resulting from the years of civil war in Chad.

TOGO

Nigerian Foreign Minister Discusses SDAR, Chad

AB051055 Lome Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 4 May 83

[Text] General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Togolese People's Rally and president of the republic, received in audience this afternoon at his private residence in Lome II a three-man Nigerian delegation led by Nigerian Foreign Minister Ishaya Audu, who delivered to him a special message from President Shehu Shagari. The audience took place in the presence of Mr Akakpo-Ahianyo, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and the Nigerian ambassador to Togo.

The Nigerian foreign minister talked to the press after the audience. He first of all expressed happiness about the good relations existing between Togo and Nigeria. He also hoped that the SDAR would abstain from the forthcoming OAU summit conference in order to save the pan-African organization. Professor Audu also talked about the border incidents between Nigeria and Chad and hoped that this dispute would be settled through diplomatic channels within the framework of the good relations between the two countries. The Nigerian foreign minister said he was very satisfied with the long discussions he had with President Eyadema, particularly the attention the president accorded to his ideas.

[Begin recording, in English followed by French translation; processed from French] [Audu] I am very happy that President Eyadema has granted me this audience, which lasted 2 hours and 15 minutes and during which he examined the contents of the message I delivered to him from my president. We examined the relations between our two countries, the problems relating to the holding of the OAU summit conference, and other issues. As you certainly know, relations between Nigeria and Togo are excellent. We exchange notes and ideas from time to time and we regularly inform each other about events in our respective countries.

You are certainly aware that your foreign minister visited Nigeria last week to deliver a message to my president. I have just delivered the reply to your president with whom I also held discussions. Concerning our bilateral relations, we examined some pertinent issues of interest to our two countries both in the political and economic fields. I am convinced that during the forthcoming ECOWAS conference in Conakry, our two heads of state will have the opportunity to hold detailed discussions about problems concerning their countries.

We also discussed the problems now facing the OAU and the ways and means of solving them. I have no doubt that President Eyadema is prepared to make every effort to save Africa. We talked about the forthcoming OAU summit to be held in Addis Ababa. As you know, two abortive attempts have already been made to hold this summit meeting. We examined the problems that may arise during this third attempt and President Eyadema made some positive suggestions. We also examined other problems concerning the OAU and Africa in general in both the political and economic fields.

[Question] The special committee in charge of preparing the OAU summit to be held in Addis Ababa has decided to invite all the member states without any conditions. What was this committee's attitude toward the SDAR, considering the fact that its president has been invited to attend the summit to be held in Addis Ababa next June?

[Answer] The decision of the Committee of 12 to invite all the OAU member states without any condition is due to the fact that it wants to ensure that no one boycotts the conference on the pretext that certain problems exist that must be solved before he attends the meeting. If this happens, the problems will remain unsolved. We believe that if all of us agree to attend the meeting, each of us will be asked to express his views on the problems and we will be able to examine them in detail. We think this would be in the interest of our continent.

Concerning the SDAR, I think that if it has thoroughly examined the present situation in Africa and the world, it would be better for it not to participate in the conference. This is because if the OAU fails to meet, the heads of state will not be able to discuss the fate of the SDAR. If the OAU meets, we will be able to discuss the Saharan problems. I know that if the OAU fails to meet because of the SDAR problem, everybody will later condemn the Saharan people for having provoked the failure or death of the OAU. I do not think the Saharan people would like this to happen. It would be to their glory and to the glory of our entire continent if the Saharans do not attend the forthcoming Addis Ababa conference.

[Question] Recently, there were border incidents between Nigerian and Chadian troops in the Lake Chad area. Did you discuss this problem with our head of state, and what are Africa's chances of seeing this problem resolved through diplomatic channels?

[Answer] This is not the first time there have been problems between Nigeria and Chad concerning the delimitation of their border. In the past, such problems have been settled fraternally and amicably through diplomatic channels. I do not think, therefore, that it is necessary to call on a third party to solve this problem. I think we can find a peaceful solution through diplomatic channels. I know that it is necessary to demarcate the border between Chad and Nigeria, but this does not mean that we should continue to fight in the meantime. I think we are going to look for a peaceful solution. [end recording]

President Bongo Arrives in Lome on Stopover

AB051428 Paris AFP in French 1356 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Lome,5 May (AFP) — Early Thursday afternoon, President Omar Bongo of Gabon arrived in Lome, where he is

expected to stay for a few hours to hold talks with Togolese President General Gnassingbe Eyadema.

The Gabonese President, who came here from Yamoussoukro in the Ivory Coast where he paid a friendly visit, is scheduled to leave the Togolese capital for Libreville this afternoon.

Talks With Eyadema, Departs

AB052055 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Gabonese President Omar Bongo, who arrived in Lome today at noon from the Ivory Coast, left for home this afternoon after conferring with his brother and friend, President Gnassingbe Eyadema. Before leaving Lome, President Bongo met with the press and extended a message from the Gabonese people to the Togolese people.

[Begin Bongo recording] First of all, I want to thank my brother and friend, and, through him, all the Togolese people. In fact, I recently overflew Togolese territory on my way to Senegal. This time I thought it would be appropriate for me to meet President Eyadema, whom I had not seen since the Franco-African conference in Kinshasa, in order to examine issues of mutual interest between Togo and Gabon.

The only message I want to address to the Togolese people is that President Eyadema and I do not need 48 hours, 3, 4 or 5 days to examine our problems. We examined bilateral issues first, that is, cooperation between Gabon and Togo. Then we discussed African problems. In this regard, we hold the view that it is important for us to attend the upcoming OAU summit to show that, while some believe that certain countries are moderate and others are progressive, for me and President Eyadema there are realistic countries and countries which sometimes think it is through clamorous slogans that one can build a nation. That is what we said in the Ivory Coast, I mean, with President Houphouet-Boigny first and then with President Sekou Toure yesterday. During our talks, President Houphouet-Boigny called President Eyadema and they also had a talk. In a nutshell, I can only say as a message to the Togolese people that everything is fine between Gabon and Togo. [end recording]

UPPER VOLTA

Nucci's Activities, Communique Reported

AB042207 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 4 May 83

[Excerpts] Christian Nucci, the French minister delegate to the minister of external relations for cooperation, was very busy today. In the morning he visited the Bagre irrigated farm project, which was undertaken with supplementary financial assistance from France. He later visited the Koura gold mine, the operation of which is partially financed by France.

This afternoon at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the French and Upper Voltan delegations held a working meeting. The French delegation was led by Christian Nucci, who was accompanied by his closest aides and Gaston Gerard Boyer, the French ambassador to our country, while the Upper Voltan side was led by Foreign Minister Michel Kafando and his closest aides, as well as some senior officials of certain ministries. A final communique was issued at the end of that working session. It is read here by Louis Dominique Ouedraogo, the director of international cooperation.

[Begin Louis Dominique Ouedraogo recording] On the occasion of the visit of Christian Nucci, the minister delegate to the minister of external relations for cooperation, a general review of the French commitment to Upper Volta's development projects was made. First, French assistance within the framework of bilateral relations totals over 21 billion CFA francs this year. Second, several financial conventions were signed on the occasion of Mr Nucci's visit. Two financial conventions were signed concerning projects sponsored by the French Fund for Cooperation, including the development of the Volta valley and the realization of the first phase of the Zorgo planning unit for 759 million CFA francs; the integrated program to fight [word indistinct] disease in the district of Tiberadougou for 300 million CFA francs. Meanwhile, a convention for financial support of the budget was also examined, providing for a 60 million CFA subsidy to Upper Volta for the maintenance of the houses occupied by members of the technical assistance corps. The French delegation and the Upper Voltan authorities have agreed to hold a meeting in the near future aimed at working out the conditions and the timetable for the review of bilateral agreements. [end recording]

Mr Nucci will leave our capital city tomorrow morning for Lome, Togo, the last leg of his West African tour.

South Africa, Mozambique Holding 'High-Level Talks'

AB051316 Paris AFP in English 1245 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Cape Town, May 5 (AFP) — South African and Mozambican officials were holding high-level talks today at the Konatipoot border point on the edge of South Africa's Kruger National Park, it was announced here. This was only the second official encounter between the two neighbors since Mozambique's independence from Portugal in 1975.

Foreign Minister Pik Botha was leading the South African delegation, but the head of the Mozambican team was not immediately known. A first meeting took place at Komatispoort in mid-December.

A government spokesman said that the talks, which are expected to wind up to night, would cover "questions of mutual interest."

Roelof Botha Meets Chissano

MB051536 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] The South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Roelof Botha, has met his Mozambique counterpart, Mr Joaquim Chissano, for talks on what have been described as matters of mutual interest. The meeting, the second to have taken place at ministerial level between South Africa and Mozambique since Mozambique became independent, was held at a border post between the two countries.

Diplomatic sources in Pretoria said that one of the matters discussed had been allegations by Mozambique of South African involvement in a plot to assassinate President Machel of Mozambique. South Africa has denied the allegations.

Maputo Report on Talks

MB060611 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] An official source of the Mozambique Government has informed the MOZAMBIQUE NEWS AGENCY that Mozambique and South African delegations held a second round of talks yesterday at the South African border post of Komatipoort. The talks fall within the framework of efforts made by the Mozambique Government to establish an atmosphere of peace, stability and security in the region, in accordance with the universalist policy of peace which has been defined by the People's Republic of Mozambique.

ANGOLA

Defense Minister Discusses Namibia, Insurgency

LD052153 Budapest Domestic Television Service in Hungarian 1855 GMT 5 May 83

[From the "Panorama" program: interview given by Angolan Defense Minister Colonel Pedro Maria Tonha to Budapest television correspondent Andras Sugar in Budapest "last week" — recorded; Tonha speaks in Portuguese with superimposed Hungarian translation]

[Text] [Question] Has it been possible to achieve progress at the much-talked-about discussions which the People's Republic of Angola is conducting with the United States?

[Answer] The aim of these discussions is to enable us to find a solution to the Namibian issue that can be attained through negotiations. We believe that our participation is necessary in the Namibian independence process. For this very reason, every time the South Africans propose talks, we try to sit around the negotiating table and find a common language with them on the concrete issues involved in Namibia's independence. Of course, this cannot be done in just any way. The UN resolutions must be taken as a basis and, by proceeding in the spirit of the OAU resolutions, it might be possible to initiate a process that in the final analysis will guarantee Namibia's independence.

For that reason we have had several meetings with the Americans themselves. As you also know, the United States has not recognized the People's Republic of Angola. Nevertheless, at the government level, we have endeavored to find channels of contact in the interest of Namibia's independence. For this reason, every meeting that one has heard about, that has come about between the Angolan and American or South African government representatives to date, was held to discuss Namibia's independence.

[Question] What is the status of the Czechoslovak and other foreign hostages kidnapped by UNITA? What are the difficulties?

[Answer] We are looking for a way to free them. However, as you well know, our country has a lot of territory; it is a huge country, and for this reason, when these bands carry out their activities, our forces learn about them well after the fact. We were only able to intervene when it was too late. Another reason for this was that they took them hostage in territory which is difficult to control because of its terrain. Thus, it was difficult to find them. Finally, it took a great deal of effort even to find their tracks. The present season is very rainy in our country. There are dense forests and high mountains in those areas, and this made it easy for the enemy to take the hostages over territory where our forces could find them only with difficulty.

We called the attention of international public opinion to this barbaric action. That is one part of the affair. Let us look at the other side of the problem. We also turned to the International Red Cross in the interest of freeing the hostages. We believe that the enemy cannot prevent the Red Cross from mediating for the hostages. Let me add to all this the fact that the bandits themselves, straight away, on the day after the hostages were taken, broadcast to the world that the hour of negotiation was near, and they also set conditions. The way we evaluate these conditions is that negotiations are impossible on such a basis, since they want to blackmail us.

[Question] What is your opinion of a diplomatic solution — for example, exchanging the hostages for mercenaries?

[Answer] For us, an exchange — well, actually, we at the present moment do not even know precisely what the treacherous bandits are saying, proposing. For this reason, an exchange could only be brought about in certain cases, with concrete conditions — that is, in the spirit of the stands which our government and the international organizations have taken. Let us say, for instance, with the participation of the International Red Cross.

[Question] Your enemies are constantly criticizing you for the presence of Cuban troops in Angola. How long will the Cuban troops remain in Angola?

[Answer] The way we must view this question is that, first of all, the enemy must not forget that the presence of the Cuban troops is the result of a situation which they themselves created. Our enemies began penetrating into the country from the north and south from the very moment we became independent. In the south, it was the troops of racist South Africa. In the north, it was the Zairian and mercenary troops that invaded. In this way they forced us to ask the Cuban comrades for internationalist assistance. Their presence in Angola is an internal affair involving the two states, and nobody can interfere in this. Whether they stay for a short or a long time, this is the concern only of the People's Republic of Angola and the Republic of Cuba.

Sao Tome President Makes Stopover en Route Home

MB051140 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 4 May 83

[Text] The president of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, Manuel Pinto da Costa, returned home this afternoon following a brief stopover in Luanda. At the 4th of February International Airport, the Sao Tome and Principe head of state was seen off by President of the People's Republic of Angola Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos and by members of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee.

The Sao Tome president was in Luanda en route home from the GDR, where he was on a visit which lasted several weeks.

Savimbi Attributes MPLA 'Overture' to USSR

LD052321 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] At least 40 Portuguese nationals are being held by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA]. UNITA itself has disclosed that this year alone it captured a total of 33 Portuguese citizens. Savimbi's movement is also holding dozens of Czechoslovaks and even Brazilians.

A few days ago, a French journalist, [name indistinct] obtained the facts about the situation of UNITA's hostages, gathering information which led him to the conclusion that the Lisbon authorities have not made much effort to secure the release of the Portuguese citizens.

The French journalist interviewed Jonas Savimbi and was given the latter's opinion about Luanda's overture to the West:

[Begin Savimbi recording in Portuguese] The Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola [MPLA] has no freedom of action whatsoever. This entire effort is nothing but rhetoric, because the MPLA can attempt an overture to the West only with the approval of the USSR itself. The USSR [words indistinct], because the USSR is not capable of maintaining the MPLA in power with 40,000 Cubans, military equipment, and economic aid. It would thus be easy for the MPLA and the USSR itself to ensure that the MPLA remains in power with the Cubans, Soviet weapons and the West's money. It is thus a totally Soviet strategy, and no innovation or discovery of the MPLA. Thus, it is all a big lie. There are not, at the moment, any moderate elements that have reportedly emerged [words indistinct]. Not at all: Those regarded as radicals, like Lara, for example, have not been removed; Luis de Almeida has not been removed; [words indistinct] has not been removed. In brief, all those elements whom we Angolans regard as uncompromising and intransigent are still there. [Passage indistinct] [end recording]

MALAWI

Chirwa Found Guilty, Sentenced to Death

MB051729 Blantyre Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] A former minister of justice and attorney general, Orton (Edgar Chingori) Chirwa, leader of the dissident Malawi Freedom Movement, and his wife, Vera, were today found guilty of treason and were both sentenced to the mandatory penalty of death. The judgment and sentence were pronounced at the Southern Region Traditional Court in Blantyre in a session that lasted for over 7 hours.

In the judgment, one of the judges enumerated in detail the act under which the two accused were charged and all the evidence which was adduced in court for both the prosecution and defense. Then the judge dealt with the question of citizenship for the two accused, who had asserted that the court had no jurisdiction to try them, saying they were (?settlers). The judge told the court that the two were both born in Malawi, and they have Malawian passports which they had renewed variously in Nairobi and London. They were, therefore, Malawian citizens and owed their national allegiance to the state of Malawi, he said.

The judge said that after examining the evidence given in court at the trial, it was left in no doubt that the two and others had conspired to overthrow the lawfully constituted Government of Malawi. He told the court that all the four (?civic) acts under which they were charged had been proven. These, among other points, were the formation and drawing up of the constitution of the Malawi Freedom Movement — Mafremo — with the object of entering Malawi to assassinate the life president and other members of the government; the preparation of a top secret master plan; and the publishing of other revolutionary words during BBC interviews and in letters. The judge said all the evidence pointed to the fact that the two and others, through Mafremo, had criminal intents to effect the change of the government of this country by force.

Speaking on Vera Chirwa's assertion that she had nothing to do with Mafremo, the judge said evidence had shown that Vera could not have been an ignorant and unsuspecting party to the formation and the activities of Mafremo.

On the claims by the second accused that they were kidnapped in Zambia, the judge said narration of events that led to the arrest of the two and their son, (Fumbani), had convinced the court that they were arrested in Malawi. The judge then said treason is a very serious crime and is only punishable by death. The two have the option to appeal to a higher court within 30 days.

The trial began on 28 July last year and adjourned on 24 February this year awaiting judgment today.

MOZAMBIQUE

Samora Machel To Make Visit to UK 16-18 May

MB051238 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] The president of the People's Republic of Mozambique, Field Marshal Samora Moises Machel, will make an official visit to Great Britain from 16 to 18 May. The visit will be made at the invitation of the honorable prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, a member of the United Kingdom Parliament.

Machel Addresses Central Committee Session

MB051210 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] The second session of the Frelimo Party Central Committee was held in Maputo yesterday. Addressing the session, President Samora Machel said that a member of the committee is not a member only when there are meetings. He said that every member is an official and part of a cadre, adding that he should assume his responsibilities 24 hours a day.

According to President Samora Machel, a Central Committee member is a simple and humble member who denies himself comfort and is always ready to make any scrifice, regardless of whether he is a minister, worker, cooperative peasant, military commander, teacher, deputy, or party official. Stressing the role of a Central Committee member among the broad masses, the party chairman stated that it is his duty to educate and guide the people and to creatively apply the party's political line. He must mobilize new members to be incorporated in the party ranks and constantly raise his cultural awareness. On this question, President Samora Machel said that the Central Committee member is a combatant in the political vanguard of the class struggle and, as such, must display a strong personality and unreproachable conduct.

Discussing the fundamental issue of unity within the Central Committee, he pointed out that within its ranks there are no members who are older or younger than others. He said that there are no members of longer standing or newer members than others. All members must learn from one another. The Mozambique leader also stressed that it is essential for the Central Committee to be united, homogeneous, and monolithic by constantly fighting against each and every action of the enemy aimed at promoting slander, intrigue, or laxity.

CPSU Message to Frelimo Congress Reported

MB051310 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee has congratulated the Frelimo Party on what it regards as the auspicious conclusion of its fourth congress. A cable addressed to President Samora Machel stresses that the Soviet Communists wish the Mozambique people new success in the building of a new society. The CPSU Central Committee expresses the wish that the two countries will continue to promote the fraternal relations which exist between them for their mutual benefit and for the cause of peace and democracy.

NAMIBIA

Sabotage of Bridge Attributed to SWAPO

MB051518 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 3 May 83 p 3

[By Peter Honey, THE STAR Bureau]

[Text] Windhoek — Four simultaneous explosions damaged a bridge on the main road in central Ovambo at the weekend, a spokesman for the SWA Territory Force said yesterday.

Four explosive charges — two on the bridge surface and two on the supports — were detonated, apparently by timing devices, early on Sunday morning.

The Onasinge Bridge over the dry Gwashigambo River is on the main tarred road between the Ovambo capital of Ondangwa and the southern Ovambo entrance gate, Oshivello, about 20 km southeast of Ondangwa. SWAPO saboteurs are being held responsible.

A spokesman for the Ovambo administration said it was the third attempt in the last few years to destroy the bridge, which carries most of the military road traffic in the operational area.

Earlier this year SWAPO saboteurs blew up the Oshakati post office and seriously damaged a bridge on the road between Ondangwa and Oshakati.

SWANU Chief Protests Exclusion From UN Meeting

MB051030 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0858 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Windhoek, May 5, SAPA — The South West Africa National Union, SWA/Nambia's oldest black nationalist party, today described as "sinister" the exclusion of anti-South African parties, apart from SWAPO, from last week's United Nations conference in Paris on the territory.

In a statement released in Windhoek today, the president of SWANU, Mr Moses Katjiuongua, said it was "highly doubtful" that the conference, sponsored by the UN Council for Namibia, helped "to bring Namibian independence" any closer.

"The decision of the organisers of the Paris 'Namibia' conference to exclude the many patriotic, anti-South African domination organisations and groups in Namibia from participation was another sinister attempt to drive these parties into the arms of South Africa.

"We fought for this country long before some of these people woke up to the need to make their own contribution to that struggle. SWANU is the first Namibian nationalist movement from which many of these newly-born freedom fighters and pompous elements learned their first ABC in liberation politics," Mr Katjiuongua said.

SWANU, which was not a stooge of "Soviet imperialism," "American hegemony," or "South African racism," would always fight its own battles and act independently, he said.

Mr Katjiuongua said that except for providing South Africa with a "golden opportunity" to reemploy the "UN impartiality problem" to perpetuate her presence in SWA/Namibia, it was doubtful that "this desperate show" helped to bring independence any closer. "For most Namibians, the UN Council for Namibia is a body which has long since lost its direction and purpose and whose efforts are only known to one group of Namibians.

"There is no evidence here in Namibia that our brothers and sisters of SWAPO are more active than other freedom fighters in challenging the system," Mr Katjiuongua said.

Many parties in SWA/Namibia had refused to be drafted into an "anti-SWAPO, pro-South African front," because they did not see SWAPO as the oppressor.

SWANU had expressed preparedness to work with SWAPO for the common cause of independence.

The threat of SWAPO's president, Mr Sam Nujoma, at the Paris conference to "discipline the so-called internal parties" after liberation made him sound more like the former Ugandan leader, Idi Amin, than a responsible freedom fighter.

"We cannot be internal to Namibia while we are Namibians fighting or working from Namibian soil where we, in fact, belong. [sentence as received]

"Only those who operate from foreign territories can be justly called an external wing of those inside. "Mr Nujoma should refrain from irresponsible and inflammatory utterances which are likely to lead to a civil war in this country," Mr Katjiuongua said.

The goal should be national independence, progressive change, national reconciliation and unity, and economic development based on political stability, he said.

SOUTH AFRICA

Botha Criticizes Assassination Charges

MB060638 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2019 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Pretoria, May 5, SAPA — The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, tonight criticised Mozambique for sending out into the world a false report by a man claiming to be Peter Benjamin Schoeman, who appeared on Mozambican television this week.

The man claimed he had links with the South African Defence Force and had been acting on instructions from the National Intelligence Service to assassinate President Samora Machel of Mozambique.

Mr Botha, who was addressing a press conference at Swartkops Air Base after arriving from Komatipoort where he held discussions with representatives of the Mozambican Government, said Schoeman, 36, was an habitual criminal. He had committed crimes over the past 20 years, the first in Pretoria, and then elsewhere in the republic. He had been released on parole and had disappeared last year, and the South African Police had been searching for him since.

Mr Botha said South Africa had his fingerprints, and it was a simple matter to compare these fingerprints with those of the Schoeman in Mozambique.

Mr Botha asked how it was possible for the Mozambican authorities to have allowed him to be in the country for almost a year and then allow him to say he wanted to assassinate President Machel.

Mr Botha said he had "had enough" of false accusations directed at South Africa. "I told them our police would not have a man like him for a day without knowing about him."

Whenever anything went wrong, South Africa was always blamed, he said.

Mr Botha, who was accompanied by the minister of police, Mr Louis le Grange, said the "story went into the world" that South Africa was involved in murdering people. "The South African Government does not murder people," Mr Botha said. "It is not their style. Other countries do it, like the communists... Al-Qadhdhafi does it, but we don't."

Mr Botha said he had told the Mozambican delegates that he could not accept the distorted report by Schoeman. "I said I would let the media carry my story," Mr Botha said.

"I hope Mozambique will realise that they cannot get away with sending this type of story out into the world."

Mr Botha said a lot of harm had been done to South Africa by the Mozambican report, and future conduct of relations would depend on the Schoeman case.

He told the delegates that Mozambique allowed terrorists to come to South Africa, and then return to Mozambique, but they had stated that they had no evidence. "But I said I have evidence." Regarding the "Morning Star," which was impounded by the Mozambican authorities, Mr Botha said he had done his share to get the crew released. He had told them he did not think the incident was intentional on the part of the boat owners and crew, and they had said they would go into the matter again.

Police To Fingerprint Plotter

MB060717 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 6 May 83

[Excerpt] Two members of the South African police travelled to Maputo yesterday to take fingerprints of Mr Peter Benjamin Schoeman, a man who claims he is a South African spy, and found that he had a long criminal record.

ANC, Resistance Bases Discussed With Mozambique

MB060943 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0927 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] Pretoria, May 6, SAPA — The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, said last night he had raised the problem of ANC bases in Mozambique with Mozambican delegates at Komatipoort. Mr Botha, who addressed a press conference at Swartkops Air Base after returning from Komatipoort where he had spent the day in discussions with delegates from Mozambique, said the delegates did not deny there might have been cases where ANC terrorists had been allowed to infiltrate into South Africa through Mozambique.

Mr Botha, who was accompanied by the minister of law and order, Mr Louis le Grange, the director-general of foreign affairs, Mr Hans van Dalen, and other officials, said the South Africans were also questioned by the Mozambicans on allegations of harbouring and training members of the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR) dissident force and the shooting of the rebel leader, Mr Orlando Cristina, last month. The foreign minister said he did not deny, nor did he admit, South Africa's alleged support of the movement. "But I asked the Mozambicans if they had any evidence of MNR dissidents crossing into South Africa and then returning to fight," he said. During the discussions, the Mozambicans had said they were seeking a "lasting peace" with South Africa, Mr Botha said.

Two 'Highly Trained' ANC Terrorists Shot

MB061037 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1023 GMT 6 May 83

[Text] Pretoria, May 6, SAPA — Two "highly trained" African National Congress terrorists and a third black man were shot dead on Wednesday by the South African Police [SAP] in the western Transvaal near the Botswana border, the commissioner of police, General Mike Geldenhuys, said in a statement in Pretoria today.

The men were armed with Russian firearms and handgrenades. They also had a large amount of South African and Botswana money in their possession, the statement said.

No policemen were injured in the incident, which occurred at about 8:40 pm at a roadblock, Gen Geldenhuys said.

The SAP are investigating.

Army Rejects Nujoma's Comments on Namibia

MB051758 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1503 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] Pretoria, May 5, SAPA — The leader of SWAPO, Mr Sam Nujoma, was ignorant of the political situation in SWA/Namibia, and his "cowardly gangs" were harming the local population, a statement by the South African Defence Force in Pretoria said today. The SADF strongly criticised comments made earlier in Harare today by the SWAPO leader, who accused South Africa of indiscriminate attacks on civilians. The SADF said it rejected the allegation of indiscriminate attacks with contempt.

"Sam Nujoma has proved so often that he does not have the vaguest idea what is happening in South-West Africa and this latest rhetoric is further evidence of his extreme ignorance of the facts of life in that territory," the statement said.

The South African reply called SWAPO forces "cowardly gangs of thugs" suggesting that Mr Nujoma should "consider interrupting his luxurious sojourns in the capitals of the world to see for himself what his cowardly gangs of thugs are doing to the innocent local population."

"He (Mr Nujoma) should also perhaps take note of what happens to these gangs once they have encountered security forces," it added.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe Holds Talks With DPRK Delegation

MB051840 Harare Domestic Service in English 1745 GMT 5 May 83

[Text] A four-man delegation from the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea led by the deputy prime minister, Comrade Chong Chun-ki, today held discussions with the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe. The delegation also presented gifts from the Korean leader, Comrade Kim Il-song, to Comrade Mugabe. Details of their discussions have not been released.

The delegation arrived in Harare from Maputo yesterday after attending the fourth congress of Frelimo.

Correction to Pages U 4, U 5 of 28 April

SOUTH AFRICA

Prime Minister Faces Rightwing Hecklers

MB280613 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2243 GMT 28 Apr 83

[By Ray Faure]

[Text] Pretoria, April 27, SAPA — The prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, said tonight he would order an investigation into the activities of the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging [AWB] after rightwing hecklers disrupted an election meeting in the Pretoria suburb of Waterkloof at which he was the speaker. Scuffles broke out midway through the meeting after the chairman, Mr Danie Steyn, urged National Party supporters to remove the "trouble-makers" — whom Mr Botha described as "white barbarians."

After several agitators were physically chased out of the crowded school hall in which the meeting was held, Mr Botha continued with his speech. But it was a continual battle for the premier to state his case above the noise made by the many Conservative Party, Herstigte Nasionale Party and AWB supporters who refused to leave. About 2,000 people attended the meeting, held in support of the National Party candidate in the forthcoming parliamentary by-election in the constituency, Dr Org Marais, but many people walked out when the trouble erupted.

Mr Botha's announcement that an investigation would be ordered into the AWB came shortly after the fighting began. "I am returning to Cape Town tomorrow and I will immediately order the minister of law and order (Mr Louis le Grange) to launch an investigation into the AWB," he said.

The NP was tired of "hooligans" who were "dragging the Afrikaners name through the mud. We will deal with them within the limits prescribed by the laws of the country. We cannot allow these continual disruptions. You have asked for it and now you are going to get it," Mr Botha said.

This is the third election meeting in the past two months to be disrupted by rightwing supporters, who succeeded in breaking up earlier meetings in the constituency at which the minister of national education, Dr Gerrit Viljoen, and the minister of constitutional planning and development, Mr Chris Heunis, were the guest speakers.

During question time, Mr Botha told members of the AWB to warn their leader that the organization was conducting its activities in a dangerous area. "Go to your leader and tell him, we must mind our step," Mr Botha told AWB supporters. "The government cannot allow the establishment in South Africa of a private army that wants to commit acts of violence. The AWB cannot take power out of my hands," the prime minister added. "The only people who can do that are the voters."

Kangwane Leader Criticizes Homelands Policy

MB271926 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] The chief executive councillor of Kangwane's Legislative Assembly, Mr Mabuza, says he does not believe that the South African Government's homeland policy offers the ultimate solution to the country's problems. Speaking during the debate on his budget vote in the Assembly, he said the geographical jigsaw puzzle of independent and self-governing states and the Republic could not dilute or neutralize the desire of the blacks to have a share in the decisionmaking process. Mr Mabuza said he would continue to work for a multiracial and equal constitutional formula for South Africa.

Referring to last year's dispute between his government and the South African Government, he said it was dying a natural death, and the sooner it died completely the better.

Stolen Radioactive Material Found Near Durban

MB280902 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1711 GMT 28 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Durban, April 28, SAPA — Police last night found a potentially deadly radioactive device stolen four days ago from a bakkie [pickup truck] in Durban. Its disappearance had led to an emergency hunt involving atomic energy corporation officials and scores of municipal employees. The CID officer in charge of the investigation, Captain Carel Erasmus, said he and two colleagues had found the container in the Durban area last night. A man has been arrested and is expected to appear in court today.

Disturbances Continue in Durban Township

MB280620 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2157 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Durban, April 26, SAPA — Two buildings owned by the Port Natal Administration Board were set alight tonight in Lamontville and teargas was used to disperse stone- throwing mobs. Reporters were unable to get to scene because of road blocks in the streets set up by youths. A meeting held in the community hall to discuss the rent issue and the death of Mr Harrison Dube, a community councillor, ended peacefully.

ZIMBABWE

Top Nkomo Aides Acquitted of Treason, Arms Charges

AB271308 Paris AFP in English 1253 GMT 27 Apr 83

[By Dave Clemens]

[Text] Harare, April 27 (AFP) — Two top military aides to Zimbabwe opposition leader Joshua Nkomo were today acquitted of treason and arms possession charges, in a high court verdict that dealt a stinging rebuff to the government's repeated assertions of disloyalty by the top echelons of Mr Nkomo's party.

Acquitted along with Dumiso Dabengwa, former head of Mr Nkomo's wartime military intelligence, and Lookout Masuku, ex-commander of his guerrilla army, were four other Nkomo aides. A single defendant, Misheck Velaphi, was convicted of illegal possession of arms in connection with the caching of weapons on Nkomo party properties in 1981-82. The caches brought about Mr Nkomo's dismissal from government in February 1982 on plotting charges. Mr Dabengwa was the sole defendant of the seven still treason charges. The others were acquitted on that count last month.

Justice Hilary Squires ruled that the state had not proved a letter writted by Mr Dabengwa to the Soviet KGB (secret police) in 1980 was, as the government contended, an illicit invitation for Russian interference in Zimbabwe's sovereign affairs.

Mr Squires today also cleared on the arms caching charges Mr Masuku, former deputy commander of the national army, Isaac Nyathi, former representative in East Germany of Mr Nkomo's ZAPU party, and three lower-ranking former military men, Masala Sibanda, Nicholas Nkomo and Tshaka Moyo.

Prime Minister Robert Mugabe has said repeatedly in the months following Mr Nkomo's sacking, during which dissident violence by ex-Nkomo guerrillas blew into a storm in the southwest, that the opposition leader had conspired with South Africa against the government. Mr Mugabe has used the arms caching and the dissident problem to justify his continued attacks on ZAPU.

Mr Nkomo, the party leader, went into exile in Britain last month after army anti-dissident sweeps in his stronghold of Bulawayo, saying his life was in danger.

Justice Squires, while maintaining that lower-level ZAPU military men may well have been responsible for the arms caching, delivered a spirited defense of the actions of Mr Dabengwa, Mr Masuku and Mr Nkomo himself in helping the government quell large mutinies by Nkomo guerrillas in 1980 and 1981.

"The attitude of these leaders was 'you will obey the government,'" Mr Squires said in his judgement, which took three hours to read. "That seems to us to be the antithesis of the attitude of people scheming to overthrow the government."

The seven defendants had been charged with five treasonous offenses, including plotting to install Mr Nkomo in power in Zimbabwe after the 1980 independnce elections that brought Mr Mugabe and his ZANU Party to power.

Justice Squires, who heard the two-and-a-half-month trial sitting with one white and one black assessor, also rebuked the government for having taken so long to bring the defendants to trial. They were arrested in March 1982. "It seems highly undesirable that people should have been kept in custody for over a year without trial," said the judge, a former minister of justice and of law and order under earlier, white-dominated regimes.

He urged the government to quickly try or free a number of other men still in custody in connection with the case, all of them former Nkomo guerrillas or connected with Mr Nkomo's party. Some have been called as state witnesses.

Detention Orders Served

MB271650 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] The former Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army intelligence chief, Dumisa Dabengwa, together with five co-accused, were served with detention orders soon after the high court had acquitted them of treason and illegal possession of offensive weapons. The detention order, which was signed by Assistant Commissioner of Police (Muroverwe),says that the accused cannot be detained for a period exceeding 30 days.

Earlier, Justice Squires ruled that Dabengwa should be acquitted on a charge of treason because the prosecution had failed to prove that his writing of a letter to the KGB in 1980, and its dispatch, had constituted an act of treason. Justice Squires also acquitted Isaac Nyathi, Gilbert Khumalo, Nasala Chibanda and (David Tondlana) on charges of unlawful possession of arms of war. However, the court found the [words indistinct], Meshack Velaphi guilty.

Economic Cooperation With Romania Discussed

MB271200 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 27 Apr 83

[Text] The Zimbabwe-Romania Joint Commission, established in 1981, is meeting in Harare to discuss details of the protocol. In a speech to the commission, its co-chairman, Zimbabwe's deputy prime minister, Comrade Muzenda, appealed to delegates to be frank and realistic during their deliberations. He said this is necessary because Romania and Zimbabwe want to speed up cooperation in economic fields.

Comrade Muzenda said although the commission was established in 1981, its first meeting is only taking place today because it was necessary to hold detailed prior consultations, giving full attention to every topic contained in the protocol. Comrade Muzenda told the commission that to date the two countries have signed friendship, trade, agricultural and cultural agreements. He described the signing of the accord as a positive and concrete achievement.